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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

TESTING CHAOS
BOILING OVER

Gun threat prompts early closure of overwhelmed virus testing location across from Bristol City Hall

State struggling with surging demand — and not enough tests — amid an increase in omicron cases



People react as they wait to be tested for COVID-19 across from City Hall in Bristol on Tuesday. **JESSICA HILL PHOTOS/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

Towns plan to start handing out free COVID-19 test kits

By Don Stacom and Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

As Connecticut scrambles to respond to the surging omicron outbreak, municipal leaders across the state were preparing to work with the National Guard to distribute free COVID-19 test kits starting Thursday. Communities on Tuesday were still working out exactly how to distribute thousands of kits supplied by the state and paid for by the federal government. Some expect to start handing them out Thursday afternoon, others — like West Hartford and Wethersfield — will wait until Friday. Still others, including New Britain and Hartford, are looking toward early next week. Gov. Ned Lamont made clear Tuesday afternoon that he puts a high priority on the task: He is calling up nearly 100 Connecticut National Guard soldiers and airmen to help with the distrib-

Turn to Sites, Page 3

Long lines, hourslong waits lead to tension, confusion in Bristol; governor asks National Guard to help with distribution this week



A Bristol police officer talks to workers closed inside a trailer after a gun threat shut down the COVID-19 testing site on Tuesday.

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

Frustration and confusion reached a boiling point Tuesday afternoon after a gun threat at an overwhelmed COVID-19 testing site in Bristol, prompting officials to shut down testing operations and leaving hundreds of people without tests and unsure of who to blame. Vehicles filled up two large commuter lots located across from Bristol City Hall and the police department, with several more at one point wrapping around onto North Main Street. At the front of the line was a single small, white trailer staffed by just three people. According to Bristol police, a person waiting for a test called the headquarters of Genesys Diagnostics, the Oakdale-based company running the site, and threatened to take out their gun and start shooting people if the line didn't move more quickly.

Turn to Tests, Page 3

Record positivity latest sign of surge

Nearly 1K in hospital as Lamont vows to send at-home tests

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

Connecticut blew past its previous record for COVID-19 positivity rate Tuesday, reporting 5,753 new cases on 38,395 tests for a daily rate of 14.98%. Previously, the state hadn't reported a positivity rate higher than 11% on any given day since widespread testing began in spring 2020. Officials warn that Connecticut's positivity rate tends to be highest on Tuesdays due to patterns in who gets tested over the weekend, but even so the broader trend is clear. The state's seven-day positivity rate now stands at 10.8%, easily the highest at any point since testing expanded. Experts say Connecticut's continued COVID-19 spike likely owes to several factors, including the spread of the omicron variant, which is now dominant in the state, according to Yale School of Public Health researchers. Connecticut's recent surge in COVID-19 cases has created fierce demand for testing. Testing sites across the state were overrun Tuesday, leading to long lines and hourslong waits. Gov. Ned Lamont announced Monday that the state will distribute 3 million free at-home COVID-19 tests to Connecticut residents beginning this week and said Tuesday he will call up nearly 100 Connecticut National Guard soldiers and airmen to assist with the effort. Meanwhile, local municipalities said Tuesday they were preparing for a massive distribution of test kits on Thursday and Friday. Though COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths have not spiked as rapidly in recent weeks as cases have, those metrics continue to increase as well, taxing locals hospitals. Even with the omicron variant likely causing less severe illness than other strains, hospitalizations in Connecticut currently stand at their highest level in 11 months.

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NOTE TO READERS

Connecticut news can be found in the A section of the Hartford Courant through Jan. 4, except for Sunday, Jan. 2, when the Connecticut section will be included.

New CDC guidelines draw criticism

Agency says change to reduce isolation periods follows fresh data on coronavirus transmission

By Zeke Miller and Katie Foody
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. health officials' decision to shorten the recommended COVID-19 isolation and quarantine period from 10 days to five is drawing criticism from some medical experts and could create more confusion and fear among Americans. To the dismay of some authorities, the new guidelines allow people to leave isolation without getting tested to see if they are

still infectious. The guidance has raised questions about how it was crafted and why it was changed now, in the middle of another wintertime spike in cases, this one driven largely by the highly contagious omicron variant. Monday's action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cut in half the recommended isolation time for Americans who are infected with the coronavirus but have no symptoms. The CDC similarly shortened the amount of time people who have come into

close contact with an infected person need to quarantine. CDC officials said the guidance is in keeping with growing evidence that people with the virus are most infectious in the first few days. The CDC has been under pressure from the public and the private sector, including the airline industry, to shorten the isolation time and reduce the risk of severe staffing shortages amid the omicron surge. Thousands of flights have been canceled over the past few days, creating a mess blamed on omicron.

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People wait in a long line to get tested for COVID-19 last week in New York City's Times Square. **SETH WENIG/AP**

Extra federal help for jobless benefits withdrawn

Extra federal help will end next month as Connecticut's unemployment rate falls and the labor force rebuilds from the worst of the business lockdown caused by COVID-19. **PAGE 6**

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FROM PAGE ONE

HARRY REID 1939-2021

Ex-Senate majority leader known as tough deal-maker

By Laurie Kellman
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Harry Reid, the former Senate majority leader and Nevada’s longest-serving member of Congress, has died. He was 82.

Reid died Tuesday “following a courageous, four-year battle with pancreatic cancer,” Landra Reid said of her husband in a statement.

Funeral arrangements would be announced in coming days, she said.

The boxer-turned-lawyer was widely acknowledged as one of the toughest deal-makers in Congress, a conservative Democrat in an increasingly polarized chamber who vexed lawmakers of both parties with a brusque manner and this motto: “I would rather dance than fight, but I know how to fight.”

Over a 34-year career in Washington, Reid thrived on behind-the-scenes wrangling and kept the Senate controlled by his party through two presidents — Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Barack Obama — a crippling recession and the GOP takeover of the House after 2010.

Reid retired in 2016 after an accident left him blind in one eye. In May 2018, Reid revealed he’d been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Less than two weeks ago, officials and Reid’s son, Rory Reid, marked the renaming of the busy Las Vegas airport as Harry Reid International Airport. Neither Harry nor Landra Reid attended the Dec. 14 ceremony held at the facility that had been known since 1948 as McCarran International Airport, after a former U.S. senator from Nevada, Pat McCarran, and

today ranks as one of the 10 busiest airports in the U.S.

He was known for his abrupt style, typified by his habit of unceremoniously hanging up the phone without saying goodbye.

“Even when I was president, he would hang up on me,” Obama said in a 2019 tribute video to Reid.

He was frequently underestimated, most recently in the 2010 elections when he looked like the underdog to tea party favorite Sharron Angle. Ambitious Democrats, assuming his defeat, began angling for his leadership post. But Reid defeated Angle and returned to the pinnacle of his power.

“I don’t have people saying ‘he’s the greatest speaker,’ ‘he’s handsome,’ ‘he’s a man about town,’” Reid told The New York Times in December that year. “But I don’t really care. I feel very



Former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP 2013

comfortable with my place in history.”

Born in Searchlight, Nevada, to an alcoholic father who killed himself at 58 and a mother who served as a laundress in a bordello, Reid grew up in a cabin without indoor plumbing. He hitchhiked to

high school in Henderson, Nevada, 40 miles from home, where he met the woman he would marry in 1959, Landra Gould. At Utah State University, the couple became members of The Church of Latter-day Saints.

The future senator put himself through George Washington University law school by working nights as a U.S. Capitol police officer.

At 28, Reid was elected to the Nevada Assembly and at age 30 became the youngest lieutenant governor in Nevada history as Gov. Mike O’Callaghan’s running mate in 1970.

Elected to the U.S. House in 1982, Reid served in Congress longer than anyone else in Nevada history. He narrowly avoided defeat in a 1998 Senate race when he held off Republican John Ensign, then a House member, by 428 votes in a recount that

stretched into January.

The most influential politician in Nevada for over a decade, Reid steered hundreds of millions of dollars to the state and was credited with almost single-handedly blocking construction of a nuclear waste storage facility outside Las Vegas. He often went out of his way to defend social programs that make easy political targets, calling Social Security “one of the great government programs in history.”

Reid’s moderation meant he was never politically secure in his home state, or entirely trusted in the increasingly polarized Senate. Democrats grumbled about his votes for a ban on so-called partial-birth abortion and the Iraq War resolution in 2002, something Reid later called his biggest regret in Congress.

CDC

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“Not all of those cases are going to be severe. In fact, many are going to be asymptomatic,” CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said Monday. “We want to make sure there is a mechanism by which we can safely continue to keep society functioning while following the science.”

Louis Mansky, director of the Institute for Molecular Virology at the University of Minnesota, agreed there is a scientific basis to the CDC’s recommendations.

“When somebody gets infected, when are they most likely to transmit the virus to another person?” he said. “It’s usually in the earlier course of the illness, which is typically a day or two before they actually develop symptoms and then a couple of days to three days after that.”

Research, including a study

published in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine in August, backs that up, though medical experts cautioned that nearly all of the data predates omicron.

The CDC released a report Tuesday on a cluster of six omicron cases in a Nebraska household and found the median incubation period — the time between exposure and the appearance of symptoms — was about three days, versus the five days or more documented earlier in the pandemic. The six people also experienced relatively mild illness.

But other experts questioned why the CDC guidelines allow people to leave isolation without testing.

“It’s frankly reckless to proceed like this,” said Dr. Eric Topol, founder and director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute. “Using a rapid test or some type of test to validate that the person isn’t infectious is vital.”

“There’s no evidence, no data to support this,” he added.

Mansky said CDC probably didn’t include exit testing in its guidelines for logistical reasons: There is a run on rapid tests amid the spike in cases and the busy holiday travel season. In many places, at-home tests are difficult or impossible to find.

The CDC is “driven by the science, but they also have to be cognizant of the fact of ... what are they going to tell the public that they’ll do,” Mansky said. “That would undermine CDC if they had guidance that everybody was ignoring.”

Qamara Edwards, director of business and events for Sojourn Philly, which owns four restaurants in Philadelphia, said about 15% of its employees are out sick with COVID-19, and staffing is tight.

The CDC changes are “great for businesses, they do allow people to return to

work sooner than they’ve expected,” Edwards said, though she understands why workers might be resistant and worried about their safety. In Los Angeles, King Holder, who runs the Stretch Lab Beverly fitness business, likewise said omicron has caused “ample disruption” to his company, and he welcomed the more relaxed guidelines.

“The possibility of five days compared to 10-14 days is huge for our business and allows us to stay afloat,” he said.

But Dana Martin, a 38-year-old Philadelphia teacher and educational consultant, said: “The looser COVID guidelines make me nervous. I’m more hesitant to participate in holiday activities because of the omicron variant and the seemingly more lax protocols.”

Marshall Hatch, senior pastor of New Mount Pilgrim Church on Chicago’s West Side, said he is bracing for

some confusion in his congregation. The church has been a strong advocate for testing, vaccinations and booster shots. Hatch said the CDC’s latest guidance is confusing and “a little incongruous.”

“Either we’re in a surge that we need to take very seriously or are we winding down the pandemic and that’s why we’re shortening the isolation and quarantine times,” he said Tuesday. “They might want to give us a little more information to go with.”

The CDC move follows global efforts to adjust isolation rules, with policies differing from country to country.

England last week trimmed its self-isolation period for vaccinated people who have tested positive for COVID-19 to seven days in many cases, provided two negative lateral flow tests are taken a day apart.

The French government said Monday that it will soon relax its isolation rules,

although by exactly how much isn’t yet clear.

Health Minister Olivier Veran said the rule changes will be aimed at warding off “paralysis” of public and private services. By some estimates, France could be registering more than 250,000 new infections per day by January.

The U.S. airline industry applauded the CDC move.

“The decision is the right one based upon science,” said the lobbying group Airlines for America.

But the head of a flight attendants union criticized the change, saying it could lead businesses to pressure sick employees to come back before they are well.

If that happens, “we will make clear it is an unsafe work environment, which will cause a much greater disruption than any ‘staffing shortages,’” warned Sara Nelson, president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA International.

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LOTTERY

Tuesday, Dec. 28

PLAY3 DAY

9 9 7 WB: 1

PLAY4 DAY

0 7 3 1 WB: 5

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

MONDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT

0 0 0 WB: 9

PLAY4 NIGHT

9 6 0 4 WB: 5

CASH 5

5 12 26 27 31

LUCKY FOR LIFE

12 14 28 37 47 LB: 8

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TRIBUNE
PUBLISHING

FROM PAGE ONE

Virus

from Page 1

Cases and positivity rate: Connecticut has averaged 3,884 daily COVID-19 cases over the past week, up more than 1,000% since the first week of November.

Unvaccinated residents have been about four times as likely to test positive in recent weeks as vaccinated residents, according to state numbers.

All eight Connecticut counties — along with nearly the rest of the country — are currently recording “high” levels of transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Hospitalizations: As of Tuesday, Connecticut has 963 patients

hospitalized with COVID-19, up 38 from Monday and the most at a time since Jan. 31. Hospitalizations have now quintupled since the end of October.

According to the state, 79.4% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. Hospital officials say the rate is even higher when looking specifically at people with severe symptoms.

Deaths: Connecticut reports COVID-19 deaths on Thursdays. Last week, the state recorded 75 deaths, bringing its total during the pandemic to 9,077.

As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have surged in Connecticut over recent weeks, deaths have risen but still remain far below the levels recorded last winter.

The United States has now recorded 819,430 COVID-19

deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations: As of Tuesday, 88.2% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 74.5% of all residents and 83.6% of those 12 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 40.6% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

Sites

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uting of tests around the state.

Connecticut has bought three million COVID-19 at-home rapid tests and six million N95 masks to help curb the spread, especially during the holiday and heavy travel period. The first wave — with one million tests — will go to towns and cities on Thursday, with more to follow. School districts will also be getting some in January.

“Our state is facing a challenging time. It is a time for caution and deliberate action, not worry,” said Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general of the Connecticut National Guard.

The state is dividing up the first 500,000 kits between the 169 towns and cities, which will be responsible for getting them into the hands of residents. Each kit will have two rapid-result, at-home tests, so this wave of kits will provide one million tests statewide.

Most communities are inviting residents to go to a central distribution point to pick up kits; the plan is for drive-thru lines, with town workers or volunteers checking IDs and handing out kits.

Different towns expect different restrictions on how many each household can get, but every municipality intends to impose a residency requirement: To get a kit, an individual must show proof of living in that town.

Communities are also asking that just one member of each household show up, but that nobody who is symptomatic should go.

Pharmacies and retailers around central Connecticut have largely been sold out for the past couple of weeks, with any shipments scooped up soon after hitting the shelves. How long the free kits will hold out won’t be known until Thursday: Rocky Hill is scheduling distribution over the course of several days, but West Hartford, Southington and Cromwell will hand out tests “while supplies last.”

Here is a sampling of what municipalities are planning to do. In some cases, communities have not yet determined a distribution point for the COVID tests.

Avon

A drive-thru distribution event is tentatively planned for Thursday. The Town is currently finalizing the distribution plan and more details will be announced on Wednesday.

Bristol

The city is completing plans to start distributing most of its 7,650 kits by Thursday evening and continue on Friday.

“The goal is to get them out before the holiday, primarily to people who might be symptomatic or people who need to go back to a front-line type job whether that be grocery stores or restaurants,” Mayor Jeff Caggiano said.

It will set aside other kits for firefighters, police, public works and other essential municipal employees, and the Bristol-Burlington Health Department is working with local employers to ensure availability to keep workers on the job.

Burlington

The town will hold a drive-thru distribution site at the Burlington Town Hall on Thursday starting at 2 p.m. The test kits are intended for residents who have been exposed to a suspected or known COVID-19 positive person and want to be tested. Kits will be limited to 4 per family/household and proof of residency will be required.

Cromwell

The town will give out kits Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m. at a drive-thru line in the town hall parking lot. “Understand that this is a short-term, interim solution with a limited number of test kits,” Town Manager Anthony J. Salvatore said. “We will distribute two kits per car while supplies last. Additional kits will be made available in the coming weeks while in supply.”

East Hartford

Distribution of more than 5,000 kits will run from noon to 5 p.m. at the East Hartford High School and the Connecticut IB Academy. To minimize crowds, the town asks that just one member of each household show up.

Walk-throughs will be allowed for people without cars. Each person will get a maximum of two kits.

“We recognize the number of test kits provided to each town is a very limited supply intended to help individuals experiencing delays in getting tested with the continuing surge,” Mayor Mike Walsh said. “We ask residents to help us prioritize providing these kits to individuals who are currently experiencing symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, who came into close contact with a person who tested positive within the last 14 days, and are having a difficult time acquiring a test.”

Farmington

The town plans a drive-thru on Friday at Farmington High School to distribute 3,420 kits, with each car receiving two kits.

The emergency management team is completing the plan, and will post a schedule and other details by midafternoon Thursday at www.farmington-ct.org, Town Manager Kathleen Blonski said. It will also send details via the Explore Farmington social media accounts through Everbridge.

Glastonbury

The town will distribute free test kits on Thursday from noon to 3 p.m. at Glastonbury High School. Please enter through Entrance E.

Hartford

The city will get 15,210 tests, the fourth most in the state. A spokesman said Tuesday that planners are using vaccination data and other information to create a distribution plan, adding “we hope to have more to share in the coming week.”

Manchester

The town is working on a plan to start distributing 7,470 kits starting Thursday and continuing through the weekend. Each household will be limited to two kits.

“The town anticipates receiving more tests in the upcoming weeks, and state officials also are planning to distribute 1 million additional testing kits to K-12 schools statewide starting in January,” General Manager Steve Stephanou said.

New Britain

The city expects to receive 9,200 kits and probably won’t disperse them until early next week. The tentative plan is to start at senior housing facilities, then hold a distribution day open to the public.

“We want to get them to our independent living facilities and our Housing Authority properties where most of the residents are elderly or disabled — places where there’s a large number of individuals in close quarters,” Mayor Erin Stewart said.

“We’re thinking of a public event for distribution to New Britain residents — maybe a drive-thru at New Britain Stadium. We’re aiming for Tuesday, but we’ve still got planning to do,” she said.

Plainville

Distribution is set for Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m. at Plainville High School; each car will be given a maximum of two kits on a first-come, first-served basis, Assistant Town Manager Matthew Daskal reported.

Rocky Hill

The town expects to get 2,610 tests and will limit them to residents with an immediate need: Individuals or families that suspect they were exposed or are experiencing symptoms, and individuals who traveled over the holidays and are experiencing symptoms.

Distribution is set for Thursday from noon to 4 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fire Station One, and then Jan. 4 and 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. outside town hall. Any remaining kits will be given out daily starting Jan. 6 town hall Room 217 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

South Windsor

The town will announce a schedule once it receives its kits, and plans to distribute them on a first-come, first-served basis, Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said.

Southington

The town will start distribution Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m. and then Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, or while supplies last. It is limiting each family to four kits, enough to provide eight tests per household. The Plainville-Southington Health District will give out N95 masks and surgical masks at the same time.

West Hartford

The town is getting 8,010 kits and will give out most of them Friday at two drive-thru locations: Conard High School and King Philip Middle School. Hours are planned for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., or until supplies run out. West Hartford will give one kit per family member, up to a maximum of four per household. Some kits will be held aside for the social services department to give out to needy residents at its weekly food distribution.

Wethersfield

Kits will be distributed Friday at Wethersfield High School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until supplies last. There will be a limit of two per household. “The schools will be receiving a supply starting sometime in mid-January so more are going to be coming from the state, and there may be other allocations from the state or federal government in January,” Interim Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said.

“It just seems like nobody knows what’s going on, from top to bottom.”

Le Le, 44, of East Hartford



Vehicles are lined up in 12 rows at the Bristol testing site. JESSICA HILL PHOTOS/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Tests

from Page 1

Genesys officials decided to shut down the site out of an abundance of caution, and then alerted Bristol police of the threat, police said.

Multiple witnesses confirmed they heard of the gun threat. Police said it was not found to be credible.

The incident comes as testing companies, as well as the state and federal governments, scramble to cope with a surge in demand for COVID-19 testing driven largely by the highly transmissible omicron variant.

Other testing sites across the state were also crowded, with some people arriving hours before opening to get a place in line.

In Vernon, officials were handing out tickets in an attempt to limit frustration.

Late Tuesday afternoon Gov. Ned Lamont announced that he was calling up 100 National Guard soldiers to assist in distribution of free test kits across Connecticut on Thursday and Friday.

“Our state is facing a challenging time. It is a time for caution and deliberate action, not worry,” Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, adjutant general of the Connecticut National Guard, said in a press statement. “Our soldiers and airmen have resolutely supported Connecticut and our communities throughout this pandemic.”

Max Reiss, Lamont’s communications director, emphasized that the administration is “doing everything we can at the state level right now to provide as many tests as we possibly can, both either in person or at home.”

Connecticut reported its highest positivity rate of the pandemic Tuesday with a nearly 15% one-day positive test rate. Connecticut reported 5,753 new cases out of 38,395 tests on Tuesday.

At the Bristol test site, the day grew more tense as long lines of cars formed early in the day.

Fernando Blanca said he saw a woman leave her car — buried 10 rows deep — and walk to the front of the line to yell at the Genesys staff administering tests. Blanca said the woman then claimed her son was having an emergency, prompting the cars in front of her to let her drive out of the gridlocked mass.

More yelling and confusion followed. One of the test personnel yelled out about the a gun threat, went back into the trailer and closed the door. Bris-



Bristol police clear vehicles from the testing site shortly before 2 p.m. Tuesdady, following a gun threat.

tol police arrived shortly after to facilitate the exit, leaving people who had waited for hours baffled and angry.

Blanca, a Bristol resident, said he was “not surprised it boiled down to this.”

“Most of us are people who are just OK waiting for our turn,” Blanca said, but “sooner or later some crazy nut is going to lose their patience ... If you park in the center, you are completely trapped.”

The site, which is listed on Connecticut’s list of state-supported testing sites, was scheduled to open around noon and close at 7 p.m., but people began arriving as early as 9 a.m. The site was closed by 1:45 p.m.

Three Bristol police officers arrived just after 1 p.m., before the gun threat, to turn away new vehicles from entering the packed parking lots.

At the request of Bristol police, Genesys will now pay two officers to assist with traffic control at the testing site in the coming days, according to Lt. Patrick Krajewski, Bristol police spokesman.

The incident is unlike anything that occurred last year, Krajewski said, when a different company operated the site with multiple testing trailers.

It “seems like [Genesys] is trying to run an operation that has as much, if not more demand, with less people, I think that’s one of the problems,” Krajewski said.

As people waited, some took to

Bristol Talks, a Facebook group, to update each other on the situation, and more often to vent.

Many of the people in line said they were asymptomatic, but needed to get tested in order to return to work.

Le Le, 44, of East Hartford, has tested negative on her at-home tests. But she works at a group home, which requires her to register a negative PCR test before returning.

She came to the Bristol site with her two children, 9 and 8, after trying to get a test at a busy location on Albany Avenue, but her luck hadn’t improved.

“There’s nothing to even tell you that it’s here, people have just been driving around in circles,” Le said.

“I don’t understand what’s going on at all.”

Le was parked in the south parking lot, furthest away from the testing site. As she spoke with The Courant, a lone Genesys Diagnostics employee ushered cars out of the parking lot.

Le said she’ll be back. She has no choice.

“How can I make sure [my kids] live if I can’t go back to work? I have to stay in line,” Le said.

“It just seems like nobody knows what’s going on, from top to bottom,” Le said.

Courant staff Alex Putterman contributed to this report.

Seamus McAvoy may be reached at smcavoy@courant.com

Panel OKs shielding Trump records

Biden expressed concerns about security, privilege

By Zeke Miller
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol has agreed to defer its attempt to get hundreds of pages of records from the Trump administration, holding off at the request of the Biden White House.

The deferral is in response to concerns by the Biden White House that releasing all the Trump administration documents sought by the committee could compromise national security and executive privilege.

President Joe Biden has repeatedly rejected former President Donald Trump's blanket efforts to cite executive privilege to block the release of documents surrounding that day. But Biden's White House is still working with the committee to shield some documents from being turned over.

Trump is appealing to the Supreme Court to try to block the National Archives and Records Administration, which maintains custody of the documents from his time in office, from giving them to the panel.

The agreement to keep some Trump-era records away from the committee is memorialized in a Dec. 16 letter from the White House counsel's office. It mostly shields records that do not involve the events of Jan. 6 but were covered by the committee's sweeping request for documents from the Trump White House about the events of that day.



Protesters in support of President Donald Trump break into the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. A federal judge has refused to dismiss an indictment charging four alleged leaders of the far-right Proud Boys with conspiring to attack the Capitol. WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY

Dozens of pages created Jan. 6 don't pertain to the assault on the Capitol. Other documents involve sensitive preparations and deliberations by the National Security Council. Biden's officials were worried that if those pages were turned over to Congress, that would set a troublesome precedent for the executive branch, no matter who is president.

Still other documents are highly classified and the White House asked Congress to work with the federal agencies that created them to discuss their release.

"The documents for which the Select Committee has agreed to withdraw

or defer its request do not appear to bear on the White House's preparations for or response to the events of January 6, or on efforts to overturn the election or otherwise obstruct the peaceful transfer of power," White House deputy counsel Jonathan Su wrote in one of two letters to the committee obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press.

Su wrote that for the committee, withholding the documents "should not compromise its ability to complete its critical investigation expeditiously."

For the last several months the National Archives has been transmit-

ting tranches of documents to the White House and to lawyers for Trump to determine whether they contain any privileged information. Trump has raised objections to the release of the documents as well as specific concerns about particular documents.

The National Archives has said that the records Trump wants to block include presidential diaries, visitor logs, speech drafts, handwritten notes "concerning the events of January 6" from the files of former chief of staff Mark Meadows, and "a draft Executive Order on the topic of election integrity."

Biden has repeatedly

rejected Trump's claims of executive privilege over those documents.

Trump has taken to the courts to block the document releases. A federal appeals court ruled Dec. 9 against Trump, and he has filed an appeal to the Supreme Court, though the high court has yet to decide whether to take up the case.

Meanwhile, a federal judge on Tuesday refused to dismiss an indictment charging four alleged leaders of the far-right Proud Boys with conspiring to attack the U.S. Capitol to stop Congress from certifying Biden's electoral victory. U.S. District Judge Timo-

thy Kelly rejected defense attorneys' arguments that the men — Ethan Nordean, Joseph Biggs, Zachary Rehl and Charles Donohoe — are charged with conduct that is protected by the First Amendment right to free speech.

Kelly said the defendants had many nonviolent ways to express their opinions about the 2020 presidential election.

"Defendants are not, as they argue, charged with anything like burning flags, wearing black armbands, or participating in mere sit-ins or protests," Kelly wrote in his 43-page ruling. "Moreover, even if the charged conduct had some expressive aspect, it lost whatever First Amendment protection it may have had."

Nordean, Biggs, Rehl and Donohoe were indicted in March on charges including conspiracy and obstructing an official proceeding. All four of them remain jailed while they await a trial scheduled for May.

Defense lawyers also argued that the obstruction charge doesn't apply to their clients' cases because Congress' certification of the Electoral College vote was not an "official proceeding," Kelly disagreed.

Nordean, of Auburn, Washington, was a Proud Boys chapter president and member of the group's national "Elders Council."

Biggs, of Ormond Beach, Florida, is a self-described Proud Boys organizer.

Rehl was president of the Proud Boys chapter in Philadelphia.

Donohoe, of Kernersville, North Carolina, also served as president of his local chapter, according to the indictment.

Family recalls daughter's dreams before shooting

Girl killed in store by police shooting at assault suspect

By Stefanie Dazio, Christopher Weber and Morgan Lee
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The 14-year-old girl who was killed by Los Angeles police last week — she was struck while hiding in a dressing room as an officer was aiming rifle rounds at a man suspected of assaulting customers at a clothing store and a bullet went through a wall — loved skateboarding and had dreams of becoming an engineer to build robots, her family said Tuesday.

Valentina Orellana-Peralta died in her mother's arms Thursday at a Burlington store in the North Hollywood neighborhood in the San Fernando Valley.

Soledad Peralta, during a news conference Tuesday, said she and her daughter were in a dressing room shopping for Christmas clothes when they heard screaming. The teenager locked the door.

"We sat down on a seat, holding each other, praying, when something hit my daughter, Valentina, and threw us to the floor,"

she said. "And my daughter died in my arms. I couldn't do anything."

The teen's family stood outside the Los Angeles Police Department headquarters on Tuesday, next to a large photo of Orellana-Peralta wreathed in flowers, to call for justice and remember their daughter.

Speaking in Spanish and choking back tears as sirens wailed in the background of the news conference held downtown, they said they had left Chile to get away from violence and injustice in search of a better life in the U.S.

The LAPD on Monday posted an edited video package online that included 911 calls, radio transmissions, body camera footage and surveillance video from the Thursday shooting at a store crowded with holiday shoppers. The department's policy is to release video from critical incidents, such as police shootings, within 45 days.

The family's attorneys — including civil rights lawyer Ben Crump — have sent a letter to the LAPD asking for more video.

Surveillance video showed the suspect attacking two women, including one who fell to the floor before he dragged her by

her feet through the store's aisles as she tried to crawl away.

Multiple people including store employees called police to report a man striking customers with a bike lock at the store. One caller told a 911 dispatcher that the man had a gun.

No firearm — only the bike lock — was recovered at the scene.

The early surveillance footage showed a man carrying a bicycle up the store's escalator to the second floor, where he wandered around, seemingly disoriented, clutching a cable-style bike lock. At times he stood motionless, staring into the distance.

The footage later showed the man on the down escalator attacking a woman, who managed to escape his grip and run out of the store.

The man left the store for a minute and a half, police said. After he returned, according to the video, he repeatedly beat a woman with a bike lock while she cowered on the floor.

As she tried to escape, he dragged her through the aisle toward the dressing rooms.

In bodycam video, armed officers entered the store and approached the suspect. One held a rifle and pushed



Soledad Peralta, mother of Valentina Orellana-Peralta, at a news conference Tuesday outside police headquarters in Los Angeles. Peralta's 14-year-old daughter was killed by a stray bullet fired by an LAPD officer at a North Hollywood clothing store last week. RINGO H.W. CHIU/AP

to the front of the pack as the officers went through the store in formation.

Other officers repeatedly said "slow down" and "slow it down" as the officer with the rifle moves forward.

"She's bleeding!" an officer shouted as they encountered the victim, crawling on the blood-stained floor. The suspect was on the other side of the aisle.

"Hold up! Hold up!" another officer screamed before three shots rang out.

The officer holding the rifle fired, police said.

The 24-year-old suspect, Daniel Elena Lopez, died at the scene. Soledad Peralta's screams can be heard in the video.

"At this preliminary phase of the investigation, it is believed that the victim was struck by one of the rounds fired by an officer at the suspect," police Capt. Stacy Spell said in the posted video. Police believe the bullet skipped off the floor and struck the dressing room wall.

"We at the LAPD would like to express our most

heartfelt condolences and profound regret for the loss of this innocent victim, Valentina Orellana-Peralta. There are no words that can describe the depth of the sorrow we feel at this tragic outcome," Spell said in the video.

LAPD officers have shot people 38 people — 18 of them fatally — in 2021, according to the Los Angeles Times. Those figures mark a dramatic rise in cases where officers shot or killed people in either of the last two years.



Anthony Devitt receives a flu shot in October in Vermont. Hospitalizations due to the flu are on the rise this season. KRISTOPHER RADDER/THE BRATTLEBORO REFORMER

Flu making a comeback in US after a year off

By Carla K. Johnson
Associated Press

The U.S. flu season has arrived on schedule after taking a year off, with flu hospitalizations rising and two child deaths reported.

Last year's flu season was the lowest on record, likely because COVID-19 measures — school closures, distancing, masks and canceled travel — prevented the spread of influenza or because the coronavirus pushed aside other viruses.

"This is setting itself up to be more of a normal flu season," said Lynnette Brammer, who tracks flu-like illnesses for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The childhood deaths, Brammer said, are "unfortunately what we would expect when flu activity picks up. It's a sad reminder of how severe flu can be."

During last year's unusually light flu season, one child died. In contrast, 199 children died from flu two

years ago.

In the newest data, the most intense flu activity was in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C., and the number of states with high flu activity rose to seven from three. In CDC figures released Monday, states with high flu activity are New Mexico, Kansas, Indiana, New Jersey, Tennessee, Georgia and North Dakota.

The type of virus circulating this year tends to cause the largest amount of severe disease, especially in the

elderly and the very young, Brammer said.

Last year's break from the flu made it more challenging to plan for this year's flu vaccine. So far, it looks like what's circulating is in a slightly different subgroup from what the vaccine targets, but it's "really too early to blunt" whether that will blunt the vaccine's effectiveness, Brammer said.

"We'll have to see what the impact of these little changes" will be, Brammer said.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

5 people and suspect killed in Denver-area shootings, police say

From news services

DENVER — A gunman who went on a deadly shooting rampage through several business districts in and around Denver was targeting at least some of his victims, authorities said Tuesday.

The suspect in Monday's shootings killed five people, including one who succumbed to her injuries Tuesday, police said.

The gunman also died after exchanging gunfire Monday night with officers in the Denver suburb of Lakewood. Police identified him Tuesday as Lyndon James McCleod, 47.

Two others were wounded, including an officer as police pursued the suspect.

Matt Clark, commander of the Denver Police Department's Major Crimes Division, said during a news conference that McCleod was on the radar of law enforcement and that he knew some of his victims. Authorities did not say what McCleod had been investigated for in the past, but noted no charges were filed.

The shootings started shortly after 5 p.m. in central Denver along Broadway, where two women were killed and a man was injured, Denver Police Chief Paul Pazen said.

A short time later, a man was fatally shot in another location, Pazen said. Gunshots were also fired along another busy street near Denver Health hospital, but no one was injured.

Later, Denver police chased the vehicle believed to have been involved in the shootings and exchanged gunfire with the person inside, but the suspect was able to get away after "disabling" the police car, Pazen said.

The suspect then fled into

Lakewood.

Just before 6 p.m., the Lakewood Police Department received a report of shots fired at a business in the city, said John Romero, a spokesman for that department. A gunshot victim was later found and pronounced dead at the scene.

When officers found the car suspected of being involved, the suspect opened fire and officers shot back.

The suspect ran away and allegedly threatened someone in a business with a gun before going into a Hyatt hotel and shooting a clerk, who was taken to the hospital, Romero said.

The clerk, identified Tuesday as Sarah Steck, has since died.

The suspect also shot and wounded a Lakewood police officer in the abdomen after leaving the hotel, Romero said. The officer shot back, and the suspect was killed.

The wounded officer, whose name has not been released, underwent surgery Monday night. She is expected to make a full recovery.

Family members identified one of the victims Tuesday as Alicia Cardenas, 44, who was killed in the initial shooting.

Sudan mine collapse: Sudanese authorities said at least 38 people were killed Tuesday when a defunct gold mine collapsed in West Kordofan province.

The country's state-run mining company said in a statement the collapse of the closed, non-functioning mine took place in the village of Fuja 435 miles south of the capital of Khartoum. It said there were also injuries without giving a specific tally.

Local media reported that several shafts collapsed at the Darsaya mine, and that besides the dead at least eight



Honoring Tutu's life: A woman places flowers outside St. George's Anglican Cathedral on Tuesday in Cape Town, South Africa, where the body of Desmond Tutu will lie in state at the cathedral Thursday and Friday. Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize-winning activist for racial equality and LGBTQ rights, died Sunday at 90. A funeral service is scheduled for Saturday. **NARDUS ENGELBRECHT/AP**

injured people were taken to a local hospital.

Collapses are common in Sudan's gold mines, where safety standards are not widely in effect.

Attack in Syria: Firefighters contained a blaze that raged for hours in Syria's port of Latakia on Tuesday, officials said, hours after Israel launched missiles from the Mediterranean Sea, igniting the fire in the container terminal.

The early morning raid targeted the port that handles most of the imports to Syria, a country ravaged by a decade-old civil war and Western-imposed sanctions.

Syrian officials and state media said Tuesday's attack caused more damage, and the explosion could be heard miles away.

A military official said Israeli missiles were fired from the sea to the west, hitting the terminal and igniting fires.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the

missile attack, according to the official state news agency SANA.

Myanmar massacre: The humanitarian group Save the Children said Tuesday it has confirmed that two of its staff were among at least 35 people, including children, who were killed in eastern Myanmar on Christmas Eve in an attack it blamed on the country's military.

It said the two staff members were caught up in the attack in Kayah state as they were traveling back to their office after conducting humanitarian activities in a nearby community.

The army seized power in February, ousting the elected government and arresting top officials. Its action was met by nonviolent nationwide demonstrations, which security forces quashed with deadly force, killing nearly 1,400 civilians, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

Save the Children called on the U.N. Security Coun-

cil to respond to the army violence with steps including an arms embargo.

Brazil flooding: A total of 116 cities in the northeastern Brazilian state of Bahia were in a state of emergency because of flooding on Tuesday due to heavy rains that have been pounding the region since the end of November.

Cities in at least five other states in Brazil's north and southeast have also been flooded in recent days.

In Bahia, flooding has affected more than 470,000 people. In at least 50 cities, water surged into homes and businesses, and people were forced to abandon their belongings. Official data from the state government say 34,163 people have been made homeless and almost 43,000 are displaced.

There have been a total of 21 deaths and 358 people injured since the beginning of the month.

This is the heaviest period of rainfall for Bahia in the

last 32 years, according to the website of the National Center for Monitoring and Alerts of Natural Disasters, a government agency.

North Dakota slayings: A man convicted of killing four people in what authorities say was one of the most gruesome crimes in North Dakota history was sentenced Tuesday to multiple life prison terms without the possibility of parole.

Judge David Reich sentenced Chad Isaak, 47, to consecutive life terms for each of his four murder convictions.

Before learning his fate, Isaak addressed the court, saying, "I can honestly tell you I'm not a murderer, and that's all I have to say."

A jury in August found Isaak guilty of killing Robert Fakler, 52; Adam Fuehrer, 42; Bill Cobb, 50; and his wife, Lois Cobb, 45.

The four were shot and stabbed in 2019 at a property management company building in Mandan.



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Extra jobless benefits to end

As economy recovers, state withdraws from boost to federal unemployment

By **Stephen Singer**
Hartford Courant

Extra federal help for the jobless will end next month as Connecticut's unemployment rate falls and the labor force rebuilds from the worst of the business lockdown caused by COVID-19.

The 13-week extension to regular state unemployment benefits was set to expire when the state's three-month average unemployment rate fell below 6.5%. The November rate dropped to 6% from 6.4% the previous month.

Fewer than half of the

state's nearly 45,000 weekly filers for unemployment insurance rely on extended federal benefits. They will be notified that the program ends Jan. 8, the Connecticut Department of Labor said.

The average state unemployment benefit is \$366 a week, according to state officials. The loss of an additional 13 weeks amounts to nearly \$4,800.

An average of 3,266 jobless

workers filed for unemployment claims in November, down by 236, or 6.7% from the previous month and off by nearly 54% from the average weekly count of 7,072 in November 2020. The level of monthly average weekly initial claims is now comparable to the February 2020 count just before COVID-19 forced many businesses to shut, the Department of Labor said.

"The economic trends in Connecticut are quite positive," Patrick Flaherty, research director at the Department of Labor, said with the release of November's employment data. "Our unemployment rate has fallen rapidly and our economic recovery is strong and stable."

Still, Connecticut's unemployment rate in November tied it for 43rd among the

states, with Alaska, Hawaii and Washington, D.C. It's the highest among the New England states.

"The expiration of federal benefits marks another milestone in Connecticut's gradual return to normalcy," said Eric Gjede, vice president for government affairs at the Connecticut Business & Industry Association.

Turn to Benefits, Page 7



Deb Walker visits the grave of her daughter Brooke Goodwin on Dec. 9 in Chester, Vermont. Goodwin, 23, died in March of an overdose of fentanyl and xylazine, an animal tranquilizer making its way into the illicit drug supply. **LISA RATHKE/AP**

‘RIPPED US TO SHREDS’

States in the Northeast are the hardest hit by overdoses of drugs cut with animal tranquilizer not approved for human use

By **Lisa Rathke**
Associated Press

Brooke Goodwin came home one night last March after being out with friends. She had just turned 23 the day before, had a good job and was planning to go away with friends the following weekend. Her mother, whose bedroom is next door to the kitchen, heard her daughter get some food and go to bed.

But Brooke never came downstairs the next day. Her older sister found her in her room at their Vermont home. She had overdosed on a toxic mix of the powerful opioid fentanyl cut with xylazine, an animal sedative that is making its way into the illicit drug supply, particularly in the Northeast.

Her death has "just ripped us to shreds," said

her mother, Deb Walker, who has four other children.

"I didn't even know Brooke was using drugs. I know absolutely she did not know that was in there," she said.

According to a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this autumn, xylazine was involved in fatal drug overdoses in 23 states in 2019, with the highest rate — 67% — happening in the Northeast. The animal sedative used in veterinary medicine to sedate cows, horses, sheep and other animals is being added to other drugs, mostly fentanyl and heroin, as a cutting agent, officials said.

But unlike opioids, there's no antidote like naloxone, also called Narcan, specific to a xyla-

zine overdose.

The animal tranquilizer is also not a controlled substance and not approved for human use. When used in illicitly produced opioids, xylazine may increase the risk for fatal overdose, the CDC warns.

"If somebody's overdosing on xylazine or on heroin cut with xylazine, that naloxone is not going to have much of an effect on the part of the overdose that's driven by the xylazine," said Dr. Scott Hadland, an addiction doctor and chief of adolescent and young adult medicine at the MassGeneral Hospital for Children in Boston.

Supportive measures can be used if a person is attended to early enough, such as resuscitation, getting them fluids and other sorts of hospital care,

Hadland said. "But this is much more difficult to manage out in the community because it's inevitably going to be an overdose that involves multiple substances including opioids," he said.

While the rate of overdose deaths where xylazine was listed as a cause of death was low at 1.2%, the report states that the animal tranquilizer's detection may be underestimated. That's because routine post-death toxicology tests "might not have included tests for xylazine, and current testing protocols for xylazine are not standard."

"It has been going on for a time but there's also a lot of indications from local authorities that the problem is worsening, particu-

Turn to Overdose, Page 7

Jeff Digel Memorial Fund to benefit Covenant Prep

By **Christopher Arnott**
Hartford Courant

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has created a new fund to benefit Covenant Preparatory School on Broad Street, in honor of the school's longtime patron Jeff Digel.

The new fund, started with a \$1,000,000 contribution from an anonymous donor, will support operating expenses for the middle school, which offers tuition-free education for young men from underserved Hartford-area communities.

Digel, who died in 2017, was a co-founder of Covenant Preparatory School as well as the first chairman of its board. Digel had been instrumental in finding a location for the school, funding its develop-



Local philanthropist Jeffrey R. Digel, who died in 2017, is the namesake of a new endowment for Covenant Preparatory School. **LENNY NAGLER**

ment and bringing in other donors.

In a statement released by the school announcing the new Jeff Digel Memorial Endowment Fund for the Benefit of Covenant Preparatory School, the donor says "One of the

main catalysts for Jeff's co-founding of Covenant Prep was educational inequality. He was focused on the contrast between public education in the suburbs as opposed to inner cities and rural areas. His vision was to make access

to high quality education more available. After helping establish Covenant Prep, one of Jeff's major concerns was sustainability. This endowment represents another step forward in strengthening Covenant Prep's foundation and continuing Jeff's legacy."

A prior endowment fund already exists for the same purpose: to pay for general operating expense for Covenant Prep, including free tuition for its students. The previous fund was started thanks to a policy change five years ago where the Hartford Foundation began allowing endowments to be created with as little as \$10,000.

The idea of an endowment grew out of discus-

Turn to Fund, Page 7

Stop & Shop to shutter location in East Hartford

Charter Oak Mall vacancy, in resurgent Silver Lake corridor, concerns mayor

By **Jesse Leavenworth**
Hartford Courant

EAST HARTFORD — Stop & Shop is due to shutter an East Hartford location soon, and Mayor Mike Walsh said he is concerned about the gap that will be left in the resurgent Silver Lane corridor.

The store at the Charter Oak Mall is to close on Jan. 6. Walsh said he has had several conversations recently with a Stop & Shop representative and the listing agent for the plaza, which is to be sold within the next several weeks to an unnamed buyer.

"I have asked for a meeting of the new owners once it sells to understand what their plans are for the soon-to-be-vacant space," Walsh said.

Walsh said the listing agent, who could not be reached Monday, said another grocer willing to locate at the plaza could not be found.

"Finally, if the plaza fails to sell due to the anchor tenant leaving the site, I will call for a meeting with the existing owners to understand what they plan to do to promote the space to re-stabilize the plaza moving forward," Walsh said.

Representatives of the

current property owner, CP Plaza Holdings, have said the owner wants to keep Stop & Shop in the plaza, but Stop & Shop spokeswoman Maura O'Brien said again Monday that the current landlord informed the company in the fall that a lease for the store would not be renewed. Approximately 120 workers have been offered jobs at other nearby Stop & Shop locations, O'Brien said. The plaza also includes Burlington Coat Factory, Big Lots and several other stores.

Town officials and a representative of the union that represents some of the supermarket workers have said Stop & Shop has been struggling with sales at the Silver Lane store.

CP Plaza Holdings LLC bought the approximately 220,000-square-foot Charter Oak Mall plaza in 2017 for \$6 million, town assessor's records show. The town values the property at about \$7.57 million, records show.

Walsh said recently that the mostly vacant Silver Lane Plaza site "must be acquired by the town."

"I am in active, but so far unsuccessful negotiations with the owner

Turn to Shutter, Page 7

Key player in drug ring gets five-year sentence

By **Edmund H. Mahony**
Hartford Courant

The brother-in-law and confidant of Hartford drug kingpin Ricardo "Rick the Ruler" Reyes was sentenced Tuesday to five years in prison in federal court in Hartford.

Johnny "Clatcho" Ortega, 39, pleaded guilty to a narcotics conspiracy charge after a police raid turned up about 3,500 bags of the deadly, synthetic opioid fentanyl, along with guns and ammunition, in the home he shared on Rowe Avenue with Reyes' sister, Janicette Reyes, who also was charged.

Officers with the FBI's Northern Connecticut Gang Task Force said the residence on Rowe was the main storage and drug processing site for Reyes' fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, marijuana and gun sales across the city's Frog Hollow neighborhood.

In an effort to identify Reyes' supplier, agents instructed an informant to place an order for 50 grams of unprocessed fentanyl. When Reyes could produce only 25 grams himself, he turned to his brother-in-law, who came up with the balance of the order.

Ortega claimed to be a law-abiding truck driver

who was ensnared in the drug trade through his relationship with Reyes' sister. He said his production of the 25 grams of deadly, unprocessed fentanyl was a one-time event and he did it to save Reyes' life — although he struggled to explain how supplying drugs to a major trafficker for sale in the competitive Hartford market was a life-saving move.

Reyes, who has been in and out of prison for years and who law enforcement describes as a major figure in the Hartford street gang Los Solidos, was sentenced in February to 18 years in prison for his role in narcotics and gun conspiracies with Ortega and 14 other subordinates.

Among other things, Reyes was trading drugs for guns with Norman "Rich" Klosek of Enfield, a drug-addicted suburban customer who had a clean record and could buy weapons legally.

Dozens of those guns obtained by Klosek ended up scattered around Hartford, in several cases in the hands of violent drug dealers, one of whom was captured on video shooting someone on the face. Klosek was sentenced last month to 46 months in prison.

CONNECTICUT

Plant-based Manchester restaurant closes

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

Plant-based eatery 21 Oak, a restaurant located at 21 Oak St. in Manchester for 6½ years, has closed permanently, becoming another restaurant casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shawn Dickensheets, the restaurant’s owner and executive chef, said he tried to make a go of it since mid-2020 but finally decided to close.

“Before COVID, people would wait an hour to eat. People would be in to eat all day. Once we reopened, it was a trickle,” Dickensheets said.

“We tried everything. Meals to go, specialty dinners, family packages, you name it. We redid the menu almost daily, depending on what produce would come in. When delta hit, it died off again. And then lately, people are a little bit freaked out by omicron, and the town is thinking about masks again. The prices of everything went up, utilities, food, food containers. Now I have no money.”

He added that during lockdown, “people learned new habits, cooking at home, using delivery services.”

Dickensheets opened his little 750-square-foot eatery on July 4, 2015. He was eating a plant-based diet at the time and wanted to fill a niche in the plant-based restaurant scene.



21 Oak, a plant-based eatery that has been in Manchester for more than six years, has closed permanently, another restaurant casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic. **SHAWN DICKENSHEETS**

“There were only eight vegetarian restaurants in the state and the closest was in Middletown. So there wasn’t really any local competition,” he said. “I had just come out of Divine Treasures [the vegan chocolatier in Manchester]. I was doing a pop-up eight-course dinner there once or

twice a month, so I saw the demand for it. I knew I had that market.”

Dickensheets said he doesn’t know his next move yet. He said he will take January off, work on a cookbook and look for a new job.

He said anyone who bought a gift card from 21 Oak can redeem it at Taso’s

Eggsellent Adventure, a breakfast-lunch spot at 550 Middle Turnpike East in Manchester. Dickensheets said he will add an item to the menu at Taso’s but doesn’t know what yet.

“I was worried about the gift cards. I have to live in town still,” he said. “The owner at Taso’s is a friend

of mine. He helped me out even though his business is having a tough time as well. I hope he gets some new business out of it. Everyone’s in the same boat, right?”

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Hospitals receive antiviral shipments

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

Connecticut hospitals have begun to receive shipments of a new antiviral drug meant to prevent severe COVID-19 infection in patients who have contracted the disease.

The drug, known as Paxlovid, is authorized for patients 12 and older who are vulnerable to serious illness from COVID-19.

Officials from Hartford HealthCare said they have only a small supply of Paxlovid for now and will initially reserve it for older patients and those who are severely immunocompromised.

“The big advantage with these drugs is that they can be taken at home,” said Eric Arlia, Hartford HealthCare’s director of pharmacy. “It’s an additional supply of a medication that can treat patients with high risk factors.”

Yale New Haven Health expects to receive its first shipment of Paxlovid by the end of the week, a spokesperson said.

The new drug arrives at a time when COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are increasing in Connecticut and some monoclonal antibody treatments are proving ineffective against the omicron variant.

Experts warn that Paxlovid, which is produced by Pfizer, may not be safe for patients on certain other medications. Arlia said providers should be aware of all medications a patient is taking to avoid adverse reactions.

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

7 hurt in Hartford shootings last week

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

More than a half-dozen people were wounded in shootings the week before Christmas, Hartford police said.

Some of the gunfire left victims in critical condition. Four people were injured in two of the shootings — one a 14-year-old boy. None of the shootings was fatal, police said.

The most recent was Friday, Christmas Eve. A man in his 20s showed up at Hartford Hospital with a gunshot wound that did not appear to be life-threatening. Police said they don’t know where it happened.

Two people were

wounded early on the morning of Dec. 21. At 4:08 a.m., a ShotSpotter alert sent officers to 1497 Albany Ave., but there were no victims. Police said they soon learned that a man and a woman, both in their 30s, had arrived at the hospital with gunshot wounds.

The man had more serious injuries and was listed in critical, but stable, condition, police said at the time. The woman was listed in stable condition.

About 10:45 p.m. the night before, police received a report of a shooting in the area of 867 New Britain Ave. on the other side of the city and found another wounded man in his 30s. He, too,

was listed in critical but stable condition, police said.

Shortly before 8 p.m. Dec. 18, police said officers responded to a ShotSpotter alert in the area of 2383 Main St. They found evidence of gunfire but no victims.

Around the same time, two people, a man in his 20s and a 14-year-old boy, arrived at the hospital to be treated for gunshot wounds, police said. Both were expected to recover.

Less than five hours earlier, police rushed to 205 Homestead Ave. after a ShotSpotter activation. There, they found a man in his 20s. He was suffering from gunshot wounds that police said were not consid-

ered life-threatening.

Hartford has 162 victims of nonfatal shootings so far in 2021, Lt. Aaron Boisvert said Tuesday. The number is well above the number for 2019 and the number for 2018, when there were 143 gunshot survivors each year. But it doesn’t appear the capital city will have more nonfatal shooting victims than last year, which ended with 225, according to police statistics.

The Major Crimes and Crime Scene divisions are investigating all of the shootings. Anyone with information about them is asked to call the HPD tip line at 860-722-8477 (TIPS).

Morning fire damages vacant Hartford home

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Firefighters put out an early-morning fire in a vacant house Tuesday in Hartford, a fire official said.

The fire on Mannz Street in the Barry Square neighborhood was reported shortly after 5:35 a.m., District Chief Mario Oquendo Jr. said. Firefighters encountered heavy flames.

They aggressively searched the two-family home after hearing that squatters had been stay-

ing there, and that one remained in the building. They didn’t find anyone, Oquendo said.

The fire was under control within an hour, he said.

No one was injured.

Employees with the Fire Marshal’s office are investigating, Oquendo said.

Mannz Street is near Wethersfield Avenue in the southern part of the city.

Christine Dempsey can be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.



Firefighters extinguished an early-morning house fire in Hartford Tuesday. **PATRICK DOOLEY/SQUAD FIRE PHOTOS**

Shutter

from Page 6

to acquire it,” the mayor said. “The town, through the strong legislative work done by our delegation, has put funding into place that could be used to buy,

remediate, then renovate or demolish the existing structures to begin the process of properly developing Silver Lane.”

The expected sale is the latest of several deals and pending developments along the Silver Lane corridor, which town leaders

have prioritized for redevelopment. In September, the town council approved a deal to sell the former Showcase Cinemas site for \$1 to a developer planning to build an \$80 million, 360-unit apartment complex, starting next year.

Also, defense and aviation giant Raytheon Technologies Corp., parent company of Pratt & Whitney, has sold 300 acres at Rentschler Field to a Massachusetts development company. Plans for that property have not been made public.

Overdose

from Page 6

larly here in the Northeast,” said Hadland.

One or more other drugs were also listed as the cause of the overdose deaths, including heroin and cocaine, with fentanyl being the most common, according to the CDC report.

“Fentanyl we know to be in the drug supply. We know it’s in the heroin supply, so often when you think you’re buying heroin, you’re in fact getting fentanyl. I think that’s what’s happening with xylazine,” Hadland said. “You think you’re getting heroin and you’re getting something that’s cut with xylazine.”

Nationally, overdose deaths have been rising for more than two decades but surged 30% in the latest year. Health officials say the jump is tied to the COVID-19 pandemic and a more dangerous drug supply.

In the small rural state of Vermont, the number of fatal overdoses involving xylazine combined with opioids tripled from five in 2020 to 15 in the first seven months of this year, according to a report from the Vermont Department of Health.

Lt. Casey Daniell, commander of the Vermont State Police drug unit, said it’s common to see xylazine in the test results for the drugs that police are purchasing undercover.

“I think the biggest issue is the fact that it’s not a controlled substance, so there’s no regulation on it,” he said. “It’s no different from aspirin,” so people cannot be charged for distributing it.

Walker says her daughter was poisoned.

Drugs and addiction had come up many times in their conversations, Walker said, because Goodwin was helping friends who were using.

“She was trying to help them out. She did everything she could to try to help them get clean and they pulled her down,” Walker said while visiting Goodwin’s grave earlier this month.

The more information that gets out there about xylazine, the better, she said.

“There are so many people that would like to not be (using) that haven’t been able to beat it. Those might be the people that would actually hear this and understand this and it might help and that would be super,” Walker said.

Brooke not only lived with her mother but worked with her at Precision Valley Communications, a mapping, engineering and design corporation for the telecommunications and utility industries, where she was a CAD operator.

“All my co-workers just thought she was wonderful and everyone was just so shocked. There was no clue. She was not an addict; however, she was using.”

Brooke died on March 14, 2021, two days after her birthday and a day before her mother’s. She “enjoyed her dog, photography, road trips and investigating the supernatural,” according to her obituary.

She was buried the day before Halloween, her favorite holiday, and people who attended were encouraged to dress up. Now her 9-year-old sisters, who are twins, are asking their mother if the family will get Brooke a Christmas present.

Her friend, Haley Decelle, says Brooke was “kind, calm and levelheaded” and the pair had gone on frequent road trips and had matching tattoos. Decelle is pregnant now.

“It sucks because we always talked about doing all this stuff together when one of us got pregnant,” she said. “And now I don’t get to do it.”

Fund

from Page 6

sions about sustainability strategies for the school that Digel had with a former board member, Mark Niland.

The original endowment and the larger new one will coexist, both providing funds for the school’s operating expenses, according to Hartford Foundation spokesperson Chris Senecal.

In a statement, Niland

says “The idea has been that, at a minimum, the “miracle of compound interest” would enable the fund to grow over the years, while also providing a vehicle for Covenant supporters in a position to do so, to make a gift in addition to their historical annual support to ensure the school’s financial sustainability. Now, thanks to the generous support of this anonymous donor a truly transformative endowment has been established adding to the

existing endowment.”

According to Niland, “current spending policy on the newly created endowment in Jeff’s memory will cover the bulk of the fixed expenses for one month of our operations and encourage Jeff’s many friends who are supporters of the school to learn how they might best support this ongoing effort.”

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnett@courant.com.

Benefits

from Page 6

“Employers are looking for workers to fill tens of thousands of jobs, and hopefully the expiration of these benefits will encourage more people to return to the workforce.”

In what’s known as the “Great Resignation,” workers in Connecticut and the rest of the U.S. are leaving their jobs in record numbers for better opportunities.

“This churn is opening up

opportunities across almost all industry sectors — good news for those who are entering the market or looking for better employment,” Flaherty said.

In October, the most recent month for which data are available, the quit rate in the U.S. slowed to about 4.2 million from approximately 4.4 million, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. The change in the quit rate in Connecticut was among the largest in the U.S., slowing to 36,000 from 43,000.

The pullback in federal aid has followed the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine that helped avoid the worst of the pandemic. In September, about 125,000 unemployed workers in Connecticut lost an extra \$300 in weekly federal unemployment benefits.

At its peak, federal aid amounted to as much as \$600 a week in 2020, supplementing state unemployment benefits and helping the jobless cope with long-term unemployment caused by the pandemic.

BUSINESS

COURANT.COM/BUSINESS

Riot Games OKs settling gender bias suit for \$100M

Over 2,000 current, former female workers at game maker filed class action

By Kellen Browning
The New York Times

Riot Games, the video game maker behind popular titles like “League of Legends” and “Valorant,” said Monday evening that it had agreed to pay \$100 million to settle a gender discrimination suit with more than 2,000 current and former female employees.

The class-action lawsuit, which was filed in 2018, was originally on track for a \$10 million settlement, but in early 2020, two California employment agencies took the unusual step of intervening to block the settlement, arguing that the women could be entitled to more than \$400 million. Separate of the lawsuit, the state had been investigating the company after claims of sexual harassment, discrimination, unequal pay and retaliation against women.

If the settlement is approved by the Los Angeles Superior Court, it will “send the message that all industries in California, including the gaming industry, must provide equal pay and workplaces free from

discrimination and harassment,” Kevin Kish, the director of the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, said in a statement.

Under the terms of the agreement, more than 1,000 full-time employees and 1,300 contractors dating to November 2014 would split \$80 million, with another \$20 million going to lawyers’ fees and other costs. Riot also agreed to fund a diversity and inclusion program and consented to a three-year, third-party analysis of gender equity in employee pay and job assignments, as well as to an audit of workplace investigations.

“We believe this is the right thing to do, for both the company and those whose experiences at Riot fell short of our standards and values,” the company said in a statement.

Riot, which is owned by Chinese internet giant Tencent, is one of the world’s most prominent gaming publishers. Its flagship “League of Legends” game made nearly \$2 billion in revenue last year, according to an estimate from the research firm SuperData.

But similar to many other gaming publishers — including Ubisoft and Activision Blizzard — Riot has also contended with frequent accusations of harassment and a work environment that women described as sexist and toxic.

This year, Riot CEO Nicolo Laurent was sued over claims he sexually harassed his former executive assistant. That case is still pending. A committee formed by the company’s board of directors later said it found no evidence of the claims against Laurent.

In an email to the company’s employees viewed by The New York Times, sent minutes before the settlement announcement, Laurent wrote that the timing “isn’t ideal” but the “final details of the agreement came together quickly.”

The proposed settlement Monday was hailed as a win for women at Riot.

“I hope this case serves as an example for other studios and an inspiration for women in the industry at large,” one plaintiff, Jes Negron, said in a statement issued through a lawyer.

Prices of US homes climb 18.4% in October

By Paul Wiseman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. home prices surged again in October as the housing market continues to boom in the wake of last year’s coronavirus recession.

The S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller 20-city home price index, out Tuesday, climbed 18.4% in October from a year earlier. The gain marked a slight deceleration from a 19.1% year-over-year increase in September but was about in line with what economists had been expecting.

All 20 cities posted double-digit annual gains. The hottest markets were Phoenix (up 32.3%), Tampa (28.1%) and Miami (25.7%). Minneapolis and Chicago posted the smallest increases, 11.5% each.

The housing market has been strong thanks to rock-bottom mortgage rates, a limited supply of homes on the market and pent-up demand from consumers locked in last year by the pandemic. Many Americans, tired of being cooped up during the pandemic, are looking to trade up from apartments to homes or to bigger houses.

“Home price growth will slow further in the year ahead, but continue to go up,” said Danielle Hale, chief economist at Realtor.com.

Last week, mortgage rates fell — to 3.05% for the benchmark 30-year, fixed-rate and 2.66% for the 15-year fixed-rate home loan. The persistently low rates signal that credit markets appear more concerned about the omicron variant depressing economic growth than about the highest inflation rates in nearly 40 years.

The National Association of Realtors recently reported that sales of previously occupied homes rose for the third straight month in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.46 million.



A used car dealership in July in the Queens borough of New York. The limited supply of new and used vehicles is forcing some Americans to go to great lengths to find and buy them, including traveling to dealers hundreds of miles away. **AN RONG XU/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Buying a car? Take a hike.

Vehicle buyers have had to travel hundreds of miles to find the rides that they want

By Neal E. Boudette
The New York Times

When Rachael Kasper started shopping for a new car in August, she had her heart set on a Ford Escape plug-in hybrid. The problem was that Ford hasn’t made many of them this year because of a computer chip shortage that has slowed auto production around the world.

Kasper first came up empty in her home state of Michigan and, later, in neighboring states. When she expanded to the East Coast, she found one — at a dealership 537 miles away, in Hanover, Pennsylvania.

“I flew to Baltimore, took a Lyft to the dealer, and then drove all the way home,” said Kasper, who owns a water-sports equipment retailer. “It was quite an adventure.”

The shortage of computer chips, in large part caused by decisions made in the early days of the pandemic, has rippled through the auto industry this year. Manufacturers have had to close plants for lack of parts,

leaving car dealers with millions fewer vehicles to sell.

As a result, car buyers have had to travel hundreds of miles to find the vehicles they want, give up on haggling and accept higher prices, and even snap up used cars that have been repaired after serious accidents.

The end of the year is normally a peak selling season, with some automakers running ads in which cars are presented as gifts complete with bows. But this year, consumers are finding that locating the car of their desires is not quick, easy or cheap.

The disruption to car production has rippled through the automotive world. For a time in the spring and summer of 2020, rental car companies stopped buying new cars and sold many of their vehicles to survive while travel was restricted. Now those companies are seeking to take advantage of a hot rental market and are scrambling to buy cars, often competing with consumers and dealers.

The big discounts and incentives that were standard features of car-buying in the United States have all but disappeared. Instead, some dealers now add an extra \$2,000 or \$3,000 on top of the list price for new cars. That has left car buyers fuming, but the dealers who are jacking up prices

know that if one customer balks, another is usually waiting and willing.

In November, the average price of a new car was a record \$45,872, up from \$39,984 a year ago, according to Edmunds, an auto-data provider. The average price paid for a used car is more than \$29,000, up from \$22,679 in 2020.

The auto industry’s chip shortage stems from the start of the pandemic, in the spring of 2020, when automakers closed factories for weeks and cut orders for computer chips and other parts. At the same time, homebound consumers were snapping up laptops, game consoles and other electronics, spurring makers of those devices to increase orders for semiconductors. When automakers resumed production, they found chip suppliers had less production capacity for them.

As a result, automakers have produced significantly fewer trucks and cars this year than they had planned. In addition to closing plants, they’ve built vehicles without certain features, such as heated seats and electronics that maximize fuel economy.

Carmakers have said the supply of chips has improved in recent months, but executives expect the components will remain a problem for much of next year.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Virus may shut parts of UAE fair

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The multibillion-dollar world’s fair in Dubai has warned that some venues on site may shut down as coronavirus cases rapidly rise in the United Arab Emirates.

Dubai’s Expo 2020 said that virus outbreaks among staff may force some parts of the fair to “close temporarily for deep cleaning and sanitization,” without elaborating on the scope or the location of the infections. The UAE’s daily virus caseload has skyrocketed by a multiple of 37 in just the last three weeks.

The fair opened in October after a year’s delay as the UAE bet that its rapid vaccine rollout would allow its economy to avoid the closures that have paralyzed much of the West.

Belgian theaters to remain open

BRUSSELS — In a setback for the Belgian government, an advisory body on Tuesday suspended a Cabinet-ordered closure of part of the cultural sector.

Under new restrictions that took effect Sunday, movie houses, concert halls and art centers were ordered to shut their doors. Some stayed open in protest. The order came despite the assessment of the scientific committee advising the government that going to such places poses no extra risk to public health amid the pandemic.

In an emergency procedure, the Council of State ruled that the measures were “not proportionate,” and didn’t provide enough motives to “understand why going to cultural sector performance venues was particularly dangerous for public health.”

Spain gives nod to landmark labor reform

By Aritz Parra
Associated Press

MADRID — Spain’s left-wing ruling coalition on Tuesday secured its hold on power with the approval of a landmark labor reform backed by both unions and employers and a new national spending plan for next year that includes a hefty disbursement of pandemic recovery funds.

An array of left-leaning and nationalist lawmakers gave the final go-ahead to Spain’s \$509 billion budget for 2022, which allocates more than half of the funds to education, health, pensions, subsidies and other forms of social spending.

The decree passed Tuesday by the Cabinet of Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez

overhauls the country’s labor rules, a commitment by his government with the European Commission before the end of 2021 in order to secure the next installment of EU pandemic funds.

The labor reform reverts business-friendly regulations adopted in 2012 by a previous conservative administration at the height of last decade’s sovereign debt crisis.

It limits most temporary contracts that are prevalent in the eurozone’s fourth-largest economy to a maximum of three months and brings back collective bargaining with unions as the main channel to negotiate contracts. It also adopts the furlough program used to avoid layoffs during the COVID-19 pandemic as a fixed tool for

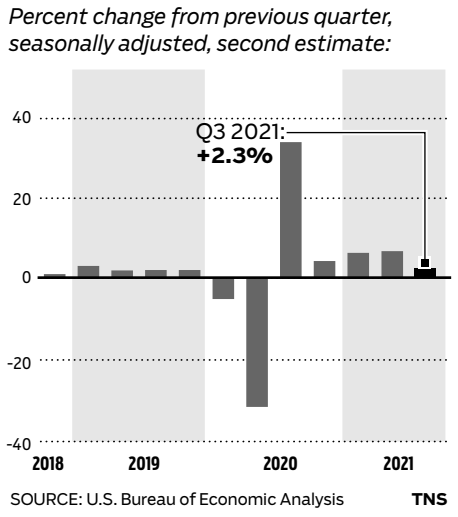
companies to turn to in future crises.

The reform has been sanctioned by workers’ unions and trade associations, a rare achievement for the government and a personal win for Labor Minister Yolanda Diaz, who has become the rising star in United We Can, the coalition’s junior partner.

“This reform turns a page on the precariousness in Spain,” Diaz said after the Cabinet meeting, referring to official data that shows that 1 out of 4 contracts in Spain is short-term, the highest rate in the EU.

The new rules take effect Wednesday, although the government will need to find support again from smaller parties to ratify the changes in a parliamentary vote early next year.

GDP



BUSINESS



Bulgarian tourists shop at a bazaar last week in Edirne, Turkey. Bulgarian shoppers are taking advantage of a declining Turkish lira to fuel their own shopping sprees. **EMRAH GUREL/AP**

Bulgarian shoppers finding bargains in Turkey as lira falls

By Mehmet Guzel
Associated Press

EDIRNE, Turkey — Bulgarian shoppers are crossing Turkey’s western border in packed cars and buses, taking advantage of a declining Turkish lira to fuel their own shopping sprees.

Their first stop is the currency exchange and then it’s off to the markets and grocery stores in the northwestern Turkish city of Edirne.

On Christmas Eve, the city’s Turkish marketplace was packed with shoppers from Bulgaria. Hatice Ahmedova said she left at 3 a.m. to get on a bus that would take her over the border to Edirne, exchanged 200 Bulgarian lev to get 1,150 Turkish liras and began shopping.

Gulfiye Osinova, 60, was also there to find gifts for her children and grandchildren, saying that Bulgaria was much more expensive.

Turkey is in the throes of an economic crisis with official inflation figures above 21%, affecting the prices of food, fuel and household items. But for the Bulgarian shoppers, the grocery stores are a bargain, and they leave the country with their trunks packed.

The lira has experienced its most volatile month in December, declining almost every day and finally hitting an all-time low of 18.36 against the U.S. dollar on Dec. 20, when Turkey’s currency lost more than 60% of its value against the dollar this year. Tourists have benefited from this currency decline.

The lira has rebounded after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced new financial tools to protect lira deposits against currency fluctuations, and closed the week at 10.83 against the dollar.

Bulent Reisoglu, the president of the Ulus bazaar cooperative in Edirne, said the number of foreigners has quadrupled over the past few weeks.

“Parking lots are filled with Bulgarian cars, it has become almost impossible to see Edirne or Istanbul license plates,” he said. “(They) are shopping as if they are crazed, not knowing what they are buying and buying five or ten of the

same with the logic of selling it or thinking they won’t find these again.”

Shoppers were also coming from neighboring Greece, converting euros into lira. One shopper, Esra Molla, said she was happy to be buying gifts for her family and herself.

Despite the lira’s rally in the past week, the Turkish national currency has still lost nearly 40% of its value this year, triggered by Erdogan’s insistence on lowering interest rates, which stand at 14%. Established economic theory says high inflation can be lowered by raising interest rates but Erdogan argues otherwise. Under his new economic program, Erdogan wants cheap credit, high exports and big growth.

With Turks waiting for bread in long lines in the cold this month, the decline of their buying power amid price hikes has been painfully visible.

Erdogan has urged Turkish businesses to lower their prices as the lira stabilizes but there’s no signs yet they will be replacing the hordes of Bulgarian shoppers in Edirne anytime soon.

As workers earn pay leverage, nonprofits unable to keep up

By Ben Casselman
The New York Times

In a Northern California school district, the superintendent is taking shifts as a lunchroom monitor. In Louisville, Kentucky, nonprofit groups are losing social workers to better-paying jobs at Walmart and McDonald’s. And in Rhode Island, child welfare organizations are turning away families from early-intervention programs because they are short of personnel.

The nationwide labor shortage in recent months has led to delayed shipments, long waits at restaurants and other frustrations for customers and employers alike. But many for-profit businesses have been able to overcome their staffing difficulties, at least in part, by offering higher wages to attract workers.

For many nonprofit and public-sector employers, however, raising pay isn’t an option, at least without persuading state legislators to approve budget increases or voters to approve higher taxes. That is leading to a wave of departures and rising vacancy rates as their salaries fall further behind their for-profit counterparts.

“We’ve lost our ability to be competitive,” said Carrie Miranda, executive director of Looking Upwards, a nonprofit in Middletown, Rhode Island, that works with adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and other health care needs. “When a new person comes to the door, I can’t say yes to them, and they desperately need the services.”

Looking Upwards, like many similar organizations across the country, receives most of its funding through state contracts that pay a fixed reimbursement rate for the services they provide. In many states, including Rhode Island, funding levels



Steffy Molina left nonprofit work to join a for-profit health care technology company. **TONY LUONG/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

had been failing to keep up with rising costs even before the pandemic.

At Looking Upwards, pay starts at \$15.75 an hour for jobs that can be physically taxing and emotionally draining; the Wendy’s down the street is offering \$17 an hour for some positions.

“We used to compete with hospitals and other health care entities, and now we’re competing with the convenience stores, the fast-food places, the coffee shops,” Miranda said. “I’ve heard more and more people say, ‘I’d love to stay in this job, I’m passionate about the work, but I need to feed my family, I have to pay my rent.’”

When Steffy Molina graduated from college in 2017, she wanted a job where she could make a difference in the lives of people like her, an immigrant who spoke no English when she came to the U.S. at age 17.

She moved to Providence, where she found a job with Family Service of Rhode Island, helping to arrange health care, nutrition support and other services for families with young children.

Molina, now 27, found

the work rewarding. But at \$16 an hour, it was hard to make ends meet. Even after earning a master’s degree, she saw little path toward a livable wage.

So Molina left Family Service shortly before the pandemic to take a better-paying job at a nonprofit that relied less on government contracts. And this year, she left nonprofit work to join a for-profit health care technology company, where she earns about \$75,000 a year.

Molina says she likes her new job, and still feels she is making a difference. But she misses helping families directly.

“I loved the work, just the satisfaction of being able to work with a child or a family,” she said. “Even if they could have paid \$18, I would have stayed.”

Wage pressures aren’t hitting all nonprofits equally. Some organizations have endowments or other funding sources that make it easier for them to raise pay. And some states regularly adjust reimbursement rates to reflect prevailing wage levels or have used federal aid money to make ad hoc adjustments.

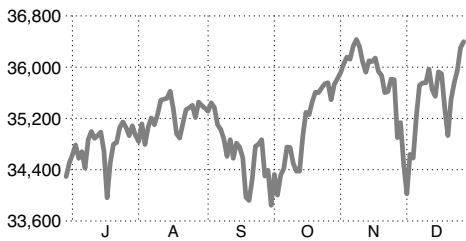
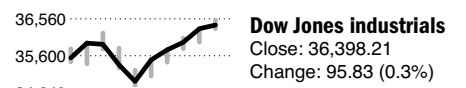
But government data suggests the nonprofit sector as a whole is struggling to compete. Total nonprofit employment in November was 4.8% below its pre-pandemic level, compared with a 1.5% employment gap in the for-profit sector, according to a New York Times analysis of Current Population Survey data. That is despite a sharp increase in demand for many nonprofit services during the pandemic.

Wages aren’t the only challenge. School superintendents say they are battling burnout after close to two years of remote and hybrid learning, fights over mask and vaccine mandates, and other issues.”

MARKET RUNDOWN

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

 DOW 36,398.21 +95.83	 10-YR T-BOND 1.48% ...	 GOLD \$1,810.20 +2.10
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	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	36,398.21	+95.83	+18.92%
DOW Trans.	16,390.95	+2.26	+31.05%
DOW Util.	969.12	+8.30	+12.08%
NYSE Comp.	17,134.16	-6.93	+17.96%
Nasdaq Comp.	15,781.72	-89.54	+22.45%
S&P 500	4,786.35	-4.84	+27.43%
S&P 400	2,832.24	-.94	+22.79%
Wilshire 5000	48,642.84	-124.55	+23.28%
Russell 2000	2,246.51	-14.95	+13.76%

Commodities			
	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
FUELS			
Crude Oil (bbl)	75.98	75.57	+56.60%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.06	4.06	+59.71%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.25	2.23	+57.82%
METALS			
Gold (oz)	1,810.20	1,808.10	-4.38%
Silver (oz)	23.11	22.98	-12.23%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange			Money Rates		
	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx		CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Britain	1.3424	.7449	Prime rate	3.25	3.25
Canada	.7804	1.2815	3-mo. T-Bill	0.06	0.07
China	.1570	6.3687	6-mo. T-Bill	0.20	0.16
Euro	1.1302	.8848	5-yr T-Note	1.27	1.17
Japan	.008709	114.83	10-yr T-Note	1.48	1.42
Mexico	.048358	20.6793	30-yr T-Bond	1.90	1.85

Global Markets			
	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG. %YTD
Frankfurt	15,963.70	+128.45	+8.1% +16.36%
London	% +14.13%
Hong Kong	23,280.56	+56.80	+2.4% -14.51%
Nikkei	29,069.16	+392.70	+1.37% +5.92%

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG. YTD
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	27.72	-.98	+1207.5
AT&T Inc (T)	24.82	+0.4	-13.7
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	153.15	-1.21	+67.0
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	18.54	+3.7	+17.6
Amer Virtual Cloud (AVCT)	2.39	-.18	-66.8
Amphenol Corp (APH)	87.12	+1.9	...
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	8.24	+0.1	-2.5
Apple Inc (AAPL)	179.29	-1.04	+35.1
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	49.35	+8.9	+8.6
Bank of America (BAC)	44.70	+0.06	+47.5
Barnes Group (B)	46.85	+4.4	-7.6
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2386.91	-7.60	+7.2
BridgeBio Pharma Inc (BBIO)	13.43	+2.05	-81.1
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	62.35	+0.6	+5
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	102.77	+3.7	+50.5
Carnival Corp (CCL)	20.90	-.05	-3.5
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	53.48	-.05	+41.8
Charter Commun (CHTR)	655.79	+3.44	-.9
Cigna Corp (CI)	230.54	+2.68	+10.7
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	50.51	+0.8	-3.6
DiDi Global Inc (DIDI)	5.38	-.04	-62.0
Digital Turbine Inc (APPS)	62.34	-1.10	+10.2
Disney (DIS)	155.20	+2.40	-14.3
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	127.66	-.44	+39.6
Ethan Allen (ETD)	26.24	+2.4	+29.8
Eversource Energy (ES)	90.06	+.84	+4.1
Flotek Industries (FTK)	.79	+2.3	-62.6
Ford Motor (F)	20.76	-.04	+136.2
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	5.87	-.43	-47.4
Gen Dynamics (GD)	207.67	+5.4	+39.5
Gen Electric (GE)	95.30	+6.8	+10.6
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	69.14	+3.0	+41.2
Honeywell Intl (HON)	207.05	+.62	-2.7
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	16.01	-.07	+20.9
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	25.30	-.03	+49.3
InsigniaSy (ISIG)	19.02	+7.48	+223.5
Intel Corp (INTC)	51.76	-.18	+3.9
Kaman (KAMN)	43.19	+2.4	-24.4
Keycorp (KEY)	23.19	+1.0	+41.3
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	68.58	-.24	+36.3
LiveOne Inc (LVO)	1.41	+0.4	-57.0
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	36.98	-1.66	+37.8
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	44.22	-.99	+40.3
Macy's Inc (M)	26.05	+2.4	+131.6
Magellan Health Inc (MGLN)	94.86	+0.1	+14.5

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG. YTD
Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	346.22	+.04	+26.7
Meten Holding Group (METX)	.26	+.01	-87.0
MetLife Inc (MET)	62.61	+.12	+33.4
Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	341.25	-1.20	+53.4
Nikola Corp (NKLA)	10.55	-.23	-30.9
Norwegian Cruise Ln (NCLH)	21.91	-.23	-13.8
Novartis AG (NVS)	88.13	+.52	-6.7
Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	303.22	-6.23	+132.3
Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	86.46	-.06	+28.0
Palantir Technol (PLTR)	18.57	-.37	-21.1
Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	17.90	+.08	+38.4
Pfizer Inc (PFE)	58.01	-1.19	+57.6
Pitney Bowes (PBI)	6.64	-.01	+7.8
Pop Culture Grp Cp (CPOP)	2.31	+.61	-92.4
Progenity Inc (PROG)	1.99	-.01	-62.5
Prudential Fncl (PRU)	109.06	+.23	+39.7
Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	65.58	+.52	+12.5
Raytheon Technol (RTX)	86.02	+.78	+20.3
Robinhood Markets A (HOOD)	17.45	-.99	-49.9
Rogers Corp (ROG)	273.28	-.10	+76.0
Roblox Corp (RBLX)	98.74	-6.27	+42.1
SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	82.99	+.66	+14.1
SeaChange Intl Inc (SEAC)	1.75	+.01	+25.0
Society Pass Inc (SOPA)	14.43	+.39	-70.1
SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	14.85	-.54	-34.4
Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	186.51	+2.41	+4.5
Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	24.81	-.18	+28.5
Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.61	-.03	+28.9
Terex Corp (TEX)	44.27	-.19	+26.9
Tesla Inc (TSLA)	1088.47	-5.47	+54.2
Tilray Inc (TLRY)	7.28	-.33	-11.9
Travelers Cos (TRV)	157.12	+1.08	+11.9
Uber Technologies (UBER)	42.54	-.42	-16.6
United Rentals (URI)	333.57	+.07	+43.8
UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	502.94	+3.44	+43.4
Virtus Invest (VRTS)	298.22	+.40	+37.4
Voya Financial (VOYA)	66.77	-.02	+13.5
Webster Financial (WBS)	56.17	-.03	+33.3
White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1014.90	+3.80	+1.4
World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	48.97	+.28	+1.9
XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	76.57	-.04	+10.4
Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	23.04	+.32	-.6

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OPINION

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And now, your end-of-the-year quiz



Gail Collins

Happy almost New Year, everybody! Wow, not terrible to be getting past 2021, is it? But politically speaking, there were a number of moments that were at least ... intriguing.

Let's see how many of them you remember:

1. When Big Bird announced he had gotten a COVID vaccination, Sen. Ted Cruz said the "Sesame Street" star was

- ...
- A. Engaging in "government propaganda."
 - B. Really showing the holiday spirit.
 - C. "A good friend I met on one of my Mexican vacations."

2. When President Joe Biden rolled out new vaccine mandates, South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster made a special splash by vowing to fight Biden

- ...
- A. In court.
 - B. "To the gates of hell."
 - C. In a well-drafted position paper.

3. Donald Trump tweeted that he was "working hard to get very popular and capable Former Congressman Sean Duffy of Wisconsin to run for Governor." One small problem is ...

- A. Sean spells his last name Duphee.
- B. He's not all that popular.
- C. The former congressman has moved to New Jersey.

4. Trump likes to refer to Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell as

- ...
- A. "Old Crow."
 - B. "My jowly pally."
 - C. "The man who taught me everything I know about the Senate."

5. Pennsylvania Republican and Trump favorite Sean Parnell suspended his Senate campaign after ...

- A. His wife testified that he'd choked her, pinned her down, called her "a whore" and demanded she get an abortion.
- B. He failed to tuck in his shirt at a court appearance.
- C. He accidentally ignored Don Jr. at a cocktail party.

6. Trump's favorite for the Senate race in Georgia, Herschel Walker, might have problems with ...

- A. Charges that he hands out souvenir footballs that deflate right away.
- B. Claims he threatened to shoot his ex-wife.
- C. Opponents who claim he has "dropped the ball."

7. New York Mayor-elect Eric Adams made news when he promised ...

- A. To take his first three paychecks in Monopoly money.
- B. To get vaccinated five times, once in every borough, just to remind people.



When Big Bird tweeted about being vaccinated against COVID-19, conservative politicians pushed back. EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION 2019

- C. To take his first three paychecks in Bitcoin.

8. Adams also made news when he announced transition committees including ...

- A. Bill de Blasio as head of "things to avoid" group.
- B. More than 700 people.
- C. All Giuliani family members who have denounced Rudy.

9. Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan isn't happy about the government making his constituents get a coronavirus vaccine. In fact, Jordan said, he felt his state ...

- A. Should get rid of all vaccine mandates.
- B. Should ask people who got free shots to pay for their costs.
- C. Should change its motto from "With God, all things are possible" to "Land of the needle-free."

10. Rep. Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., was censured by the House for ...

- A. Making a movie in which he plays a Spiderman clone guarding our southern border.
- B. Tweeting a cartoon video showing him killing Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.
- C. Hunting for geese off-season.

11. A pre-Thanksgiving House speech by Republican minority leader Kevin McCarthy set a record for ...

- A. Including 12 different recipes for Kevin's Special Stuffing.
- B. Mentioning Ronald Reagan five times more than Donald Trump.

- C. Taking 8 ½ hours.

12. Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley announced he's running for reelection at 88. He vowed that if he wins, he'll ...

- A. Stop blocking gun safety legislation in the Senate.
- B. Keep fighting to clean up the cattle markets.
- C. Organize a new political movement for conservatives who are older than Joe Biden.

13. Former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe lost a bid to regain his job in a contest against businessman Glenn Youngkin. Like many, many candidates, McAuliffe spent a lot of time trying to raise campaign funds. In one letter, his finance director said they were behind in meeting their goals because ...

- A. "I meant to send this email earlier ... but I forgot to press send."
- B. "People don't understand a guy this cool can be needy."
- C. "We only take money from the nonrich."

14. Sen. Marco Rubio warned that expanding federal aid to pre-K students might force Catholic schools to hire teachers who are ...

- A. "Less well qualified."
- B. "Transsexual."
- C. "Bad dressers."

15. Sen. Lindsey Graham, one of the Republican leaders on budget issues, said he was going to make his members

"take some tough votes" but added ...

- A. "I'm not going to be a complete a—— about it."
- B. "It's not like we're going to talk about taxing the rich."
- C. "I never met a highway I didn't like."

16. Political strategist James Carville, who was super-busy sending out pleas for donations to fall campaigns, referred to himself as ...

- A. "A patriot of the post-postage generation."
- B. "An email-signing slut."
- C. "A person who actually doesn't have much to do with his time."

17. Everybody in Congress seemed to be worried about what the CBO would say about the Biden social spending plan. CBO stands for ...

- A. Congressional Budget Office.
- B. Coal Barons' Orgy.
- C. Crafty Bean-counting Operation.

How'd you do? Well, if you were enjoying a nice meander down the good old days of this year, you get a ribbon. But in terms of answers, here goes: 1-A; 2-B; 3-C; 4-A; 5-A; 6-B; 7-C; 8-B; 9-A; 10-B; 11-C; 12-B; 13-A; 14-B; 15-A; 16-B; 17-A. If you scored less than 12, try focusing on this stuff a little more, no matter how it pains you. If you got 13 to 15, you win an award for Steely-Eyed Citizenry. If you made 16 or 17, it is time to think about new hobbies.

Collins is a columnist for The New York Times.

Can US find balance between isolationism, policing world?

By Nicholas Goldberg
Los Angeles Times

Americans are tired of war. We just got out of a 20-year fiasco in Afghanistan with little to show for it except the Taliban reinstated, burqa sales up and the country plunged into turmoil. Before that, the seven-year-long war in Iraq didn't make Americans safer, nor did it make that country a thriving democracy or uncover weapons of mass destruction.

Trillions of dollars later and thousands of lives gone, many Americans — on both the left and right — are feeling skeptical about foreign entanglements and urging a retreat from the global stage while we focus on domestic issues.

That's entirely understandable. Over the years, the U.S. has been quick to go to war. It has often galumphed in with great arrogance and little understanding, only to withdraw years later with mediocre results. It has engaged in follies, in misguided adventures; it has allied itself with unsavory partners; it has become stuck in quagmires; it has been responsible for unnecessary civilian deaths.

Greater restraint is by all means called for when it comes to policing the world.

But let's not pretend that it's as simple as walking away or that disengagement doesn't come at a cost.

Right now, for instance, Russian President Vladimir Putin is massing troops on the Ukrainian border and an invasion is a real possibility. The United States has threatened "severe consequences" if the Russians march in.

But, thanks to the national mood, President Joe Biden has also sent a clear message that we will not go to war over Ukraine.

"The idea that the United States is going to unilaterally use force to confront Russia invading Ukraine is not in the cards right now," he said in early December.

In other words: We care! But we don't

care *that* much.

Now you may or may not believe that Ukraine, a full 6,000 miles from L.A. on Russia's border, is worth going to war over. You may not even think the U.S. is on the right side of the issue.

But remember this: Chinese President Xi Jinping is also taking stock of the U.S. mood, watching our actions in both Afghanistan and Ukraine closely as *he* decides what steps to take. If the U.S. is unwilling to fight for Ukraine, he is surely thinking, is it also unwilling to fight for Taiwan? If America won't stick it out in Afghanistan, how much will it care about Hong Kong or the South China Sea?

And Iran is watching as well, and making decisions about whether the United States has the stomach to respond if it pushes forward with its nuclear program.

All across the world, the United States has made promises to its allies and set red lines for its adversaries.

As we disengage, we send a message to the former that we may not be reliable, and we embolden the latter to see what they can get away with.

In the process, we cede power and leadership to those who may wield it less responsibly than we do.

Is the U.S. prepared for that?

"We're focused internally at the moment, with little appetite for large-scale military involvement," says Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations. "The problem is that the rest of the world sees this. So it's no coincidence that Russia is mobilizing forces on its border with Ukraine and Iran is essentially well on its way to becoming a threshold nuclear power."

So what are we to do? We can walk away and let the world guide itself without American leadership, risking what Brookings Institution scholar Robert Kagan has called "superpower suicide" and what Haass calls "a world in disarray." Or revert to our old role as flawed, galumphing sher-



Taliban fighters display their flag in August on patrol in Kabul, Afghanistan. RAHMAT GUL/AP

iff of the world.

But surely there's a third way. One in which we remain globally engaged and stay true to our commitments, but with less hubris, less unilateralism — and less easy reliance on our military strength. One that puts more emphasis on creative diplomatic alternatives and less on armed intervention, and seeks new ways to work collectively with allies and like-minded liberal democracies to make the world a better and safer place.

The U.S. has moved in that direction in recent years, mostly under Democratic administrations. It can be frustrating — remember, for example, our impotence in the face of the Syrian civil war. But it's the right inclination. The U.S. can work more closely with international institutions to build support for global policies. It can rely more heavily on the carrot and stick of foreign aid and economic sanctions, though they are imperfect tools.

I'm not saying the U.S. shouldn't ever go to war as a last resort to defend its vital interests or most fundamental principles.

But I don't think we need to worry that the U.S. is relinquishing that option. Last week, the Senate approved and sent to the White House a \$770 billion defense authorization bill to fund the Pentagon.

It's not like we're beating our swords into ploughshares.

I'm just saying that greater caution, restraint and humility are appropriate.

Right now, the world faces rising illiberalism and authoritarianism, and great transnational problems that demand common, negotiated solutions, not force. Obviously, the pandemic is one. The even greater challenge, which will require enormous leadership, courage and sacrifice, is climate change.

The point is this: There are dangers to both overreach and to disengagement, and U.S. policy often swings like a pendulum between them.

As new global challenges emerge, it needs, instead, to find the right balance.

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OBITUARIES

Bennett, Carl



Carl Bennett, entrepreneur and philanthropist and founder of Caldor department store, died peacefully in his home in Greenwich, Connecticut on December 23rd at the age of 101. He was the devoted husband of the late Dorothy (Becker) Bennett. Together, this dynamic team created a discount chain of department stores that spanned from the 1950's to the mid 1980's until he sold the company of 120 stores, all located in the northeast, to Associated Dry Goods. Born, January 27, 1920, in Greenwich, CT, to Mayer and Rebecca (Lipsky) Bennett. He was raised above his father's grocery store located on Steamboat Road, Bennett Grocers, with his two sisters and two brothers. Bennett credited his love of retailing from his father who encouraged him at an early age to be his own boss. He graduated from Greenwich High School and attended New York University. He served in WWII from 1942-1945 in the 466th Quartermaster Battalion. Upon returning home from his tour of duty, he became is wholesale liquor salesman for Connecticut Distributors in Norwalk, CT. Through family connections, he met Dorothy Becker, of Forest Hills, New York. They soon married. While they were shopping together at E.J. Korvettes Department Store, Carl — realized his dream — to open his own discount store, combining his name with Dorothy's—Caldor.

Carl had saved \$8,000.00 from his military duty. Realizing he needed more money to open a store, his father suggested he go to Union Trust, a local Greenwich bank. There, he met Harold Rider, the president, who believed in Carl's vision in discount retailing and loaned him \$50,000.00. The Bennett's opened their first store in 1951, in a walk up loft in Port Chester, NY. They soon expanded to Stamford, Norwalk and Riverside, Connecticut. "The customer is always right" and "Where shopping is always a pleasure" were his mantras for the company. In 1961, Caldor became publicly traded on the American Stock Exchange and he moved his company headquarters to Glover Ave. in Norwalk, Connecticut. In 1983, Caldor reached 1 billion dollars in sales. He received Israel's Prime Minister Award for distinguished service in 1973, and was awarded Discounter of the Year in 1982. Bennett was inducted into the Retailer Hall of Fame in 1983 along with Sam Walton, who was his good friend, and the founder and chairman of Wal-Mart. He and his wife Dorothy, were partners in the truest sense. They were dedicated to family and their shared commitment to their community, education, health, medical research and the State of Israel. They gave generously to Stamford Hospital (Bennett Cancer Center), Fairfield University (Bennett Center for Judaic Studies), Greenwich Hospital, Jewish Senior Services (formerly known as the Jewish Home for the Elderly), in Fairfield/Bridgeport, The Weitzmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel and Yeshiva University. Bennett is survived by his three children: Marc of Stamford, Robin (Joseph Kanarek) of Greenwich, Bruce (Jennifer) of Rochester, NY and five grandchildren. He was predeceased by Dorothy in 2008, his siblings Frank, Sarah (Potash), Esther (Brandwein) and Harry, and his grandson, David Kanarek. Anyone who knew Carl was aware of his famous quote for the last twenty years of his life, "enjoy life while you can." He was a wise man who inspired us with his resilience, passion, honesty, integrity and kindness. Funeral services will be private. Donations in his memory should be directed to the Bennett Cancer Center at Stamford Hospital, Bennett Center for Judaic Studies at Fairfield University, Jewish Senior Services (Bridgeport) or Greenwich Hospital.

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Cox Sr, Ronald



Ronald L Cox Sr., 86, of Kensington, passed away suddenly on Sunday, December 26th, 2021. Born in Terryville, CT on December 20th, 1935, a son of the late Sarah and Delmer Cox. Ron enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving from 1953 to 1956 and was employed as a manager for the A&P food chain for 45 years. He then worked as a custodian for the Town of Berlin at Emma Hart Willard School of Berlin for 15 years before his retirement. He was a parishioner of St. Paul Church. Ron loved to be with his family – especially his grandchildren. He also enjoyed fastpitch softball of which he was inducted into the Connecticut Hall of Fame. Ron was an avid New York Yankees fan. Ron is survived by a son: Ronald L. Cox, Jr. of Wallingford, a Daughter in law – Marsha Hillman of Wallingford, 3 grandchildren: Katie, Charlotte and Adam Cox, and several nieces and nephews. Ron was pre-deceased by 4 brothers: Dick, Dana, Raymond, and Phil.

Friends and family may call at the Berlin Memorial Funeral Home, 96 Main St., Kensington on Thursday, December 30th, 2021, from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M. Everyone is invited to go directly to St. Paul Church, 467 Alling Street Kensington on Friday, December 31st, 2021, for a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. Internment will take place at St Mary's Cemetery on Monday, January 3rd, 2022. To share a memory of Ron with the family, please visit www.berlinmemorialfuneralhome.com.

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OBITUARIES

Blevins, James



James Timothy Blevins passed peacefully into the arms of his Lord on December 23, 2021. He was born September 25, 1960, in Hartford, CT. Jim grew up in a cozy yellow house in Enfield, Ct. It was there that Jim thrived in the loving embrace of his exceptional and devoted parents, George and Marjorie Blevins.

He and his three sisters contributed to a bustling household filled with life, love and hope. He relocated to Mendon, Massachusetts in midlife though always remembered Enfield with great fondness. He graduated from Enrico Fermi High School and Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield, Ct. During his educational years and throughout his life he would have immeasurable impact upon those whom he touched. As a devout Catholic, Jim relished his road trips to various religious shrines along the Eastern Seaboard and into Canada. He gained profound spiritual fulfillment through his experiences at Medjugorje and at the Vatican, where he enjoyed an audience with Pope John Paul II. Jim's life was well and passionately lived. He will be remembered as an intrepid spirit, adventurous traveler, compassionate soul and faithful servant. His infectious smile brought light and joy to all those around him and he will be sorely missed.

His family wishes to extend a gracious thank you to all the excellent people at Whitney Adult Day Health and Beaumont/Advinia Long Term Care of Northbridge, MA for providing Jim a perfect "home away from home". April and Carrie, with their families, offer sincere thanks and gratitude to Lynn and her family for not only welcoming Jim into their home, but into their hearts as well. Lynn's care and attention were instrumental in his well being and in the life he lived.

Jim was predeceased by his father, George H. Blevins. He is survived by his mother, Marjorie (Blaney) Blevins of Mendon, MA and three sisters: Lynn Housekeeper and her husband Jim of Mendon, MA, Carrie Donohue and her husband Bob of Cornwall, VT, April Carroza and her husband Paul of Middlebury, CT. Jim leaves his nieces and nephews: Becky Floeter and her husband Joe of Leominster, MA, Sarah Leacu and her husband Dave of Bolton, MA, Matthew Donohue and his wife Heather of Kennebunk, ME, Meaghan Donohue of Summerville, SC, Michael Donohue of Denver, CO, Mark Donohue of Denver, CO, Stephanie Johnson and her husband Nick of Southington, CT, Christie Carroza of San Diego, CA .

He is also survived by his great nieces and nephews: Benjamin, Abby and William Floeter, George and Julia Leacu, Brayden and Madison Donohue, Evelyn and Colette Johnson.

It is fitting to end this tribute with Jim's favorite bible passage (Mark 11:22) for it embodies and defines the life of James Timothy Blevins:

Put your trust in God
A funeral Mass and family gathering will be held at a future date.

The Pickering & Son Upton Funeral Home is honored to be assisting Jim's family with arrangements. For online condolences, please visit [www. UptonFunerals.com](http://www.UptonFunerals.com)

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Brainerd, Lyman B.



Lyman B. Brainerd, Jr. died peacefully on December 19, 2021 at HopeHealth Hulitar Hospice Center in Providence Rhode Island. He was 84. Lyman and his wife Ann Hamilton Brainerd enjoyed 26 years in their beautiful home in Sedona Arizona and then moved to Colorado Springs in 2019. Ann predeceased Lyman and he spent his final months in Providence near his daughters, Judith Brainerd Roth and Elizabeth L. Brainerd.

Lyman was born in Hartford Connecticut in 1937 to Judith Pigeon Brainerd and Lyman B. Brainerd. He spent his early years in West Hartford with his sister Judith (deceased 1966) and his brother Richard (now of Simsbury) at their family home on Pilgrim Road and later on Bloomfield Avenue. Lyman was an accomplished golf and tennis player, and later became a champion bridge player, all of which appealed to his competitive spirit. He graduated from Deerfield Academy in 1955 and Harvard College in 1959, and earned an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1961. He married Susan V. Maxwell of Macon GA in 1959 and they had two daughters, Judith Ann Brainerd Roth and Elizabeth Lowden Brainerd. Lyman and Susan divorced in 1983 and in 1996 he married Ann Hamilton. He is survived by his two daughters, his brother Richard, and two grandsons, John D. Roth Jr. and Ian M. Roth. He is also survived by Ann's children, Stewart and Whitney, and six grandchildren.

Lyman began a business career in Boston but soon made a career shift to education. He earned a Doctorate of Education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1973. The UMass Amherst School of Education was a hotbed of innovation in the 1970s, and Lyman was part of a group that established the importance of professional development for administrators in primary, secondary, and higher education. He went on to become Assistant Dean of the Faculty and then Director of Personnel at Princeton University. After retirement he became an active philanthropist and volunteer for organizations promoting women's health and reproductive rights around the world. Lyman and his wife Ann were also active supporters of animal welfare and environmental conservation organizations.

Donations in Lyman's memory may be made to the HopeHealth Hulitar Hospice Center in Providence. There will be a private burial service at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford. www.mkds.com

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Banfield, James E.



James E. Banfield, 73, of South Glastonbury, beloved husband to Susan Banfield, passed away peacefully at home on December 23, 2021. An Army veteran, Jim was born in Hartford, CT on February 16, 1948, the son of the late Elliot and Florence Banfield of Rocky Hill. Besides his loving wife and best friend, Susan, he leaves his

daughter, Sherry Myers and husband, Henry, his beloved granddaughters, Devin and Paige Myers of South Glastonbury, his son, James M. Banfield and partner Marilyn Meyer of South Glastonbury, Ashley (Meyer) Kruse and Travis Meyer and their families. In addition, he is survived by his sister, Carol Russo, his brother, Mark Banfield and wife, Nancy, and his brother, Brian Banfield and wife, Linda. He was predeceased by his brother, Wayne "Pete" Banfield. Jim also leaves his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Linda and Gerry Biron, brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Bill and Pauline Gosselin, sister-in-law, Nancy Gosselin, and many nieces & nephews. He was predeceased by his sister-in-law, Diane Rivest. Jim was the manager of United Paint and Wallpaper in Wethersfield for 50 years and recently worked in the paint department at Katz Hardware in Glastonbury. He was a wonderful boss to his employees, and over the years had countless loyal customers who became his friends. Jim enjoyed cars, music, fishing, reading and his dogs. He especially enjoyed racing go-karts and working as the crew chief and "motorman" on his son's prostock team. He was very proud of his granddaughters carrying on the racing tradition when they recently started racing quarter midget cars. The family would like to thank family and friends for all their help and support during his illness. The family would also like to express their appreciation to the nursing staff on CB2 in the Conklin Building at Hartford Hospital. There will be no service or calling hours at this time. A Celebration of Life will be held later in the spring and will be announced.

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Cloutier, Gerard J.



Gerard J. Cloutier, 73, of Torrington, CT, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on Thursday, December 23, 2021. He was the loving husband of his wife Carol (Brown) Cloutier for the past 53 years.

Gerard was born on May 8, 1948, in Berlin, New Hampshire, son of the late Emilien and Gilberte (Napert) Cloutier. He grew up in New Britain, CT and relocated to the Torrington area in 1987 where he spent the remainder of his life.

Gerard had a career as a steamfitter employed by the Harvey Robbin Company in Hartford, CT, for many years. Gerard enjoyed going to car shows, attending NASCAR races, and taking trips to Disney World.

In addition to his wife Carol, he is survived by his children James and Karen Cloutier and their daughter Courtney, Steven Cloutier and his daughter Caitlin, and Patricia and Michael Szabo; a brother Roger Cloutier and his wife Sandi and many nieces and nephews. Gerard was predeceased by his sisters Suzanne (Teresa) Reynolds, Ceil Gundlah and Lisa Weir. The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the staff, nurses and physicians at the Smilow Cancer Center in Torrington who provided the best care during his battle with cancer. Gerard routinely referred to the nurses who cared for his as his "angels". There will be no calling hours. Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Cancer Center Fund of Litchfield Hills, 200 Kennedy Drive, Torrington, CT 06790. www.cookfuneralhomect.com

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Forbes, Mary Ellen



Mary Ellen (Wells) Forbes was taken by the angels to Heaven on Christmas Day, December 25, 2021. Mary was born June 20, 1954, in Fulton, New York, to Donald and Dorothy (Shaver) Wells. The family moved to Connecticut and settled in Manchester where she graduated from Manchester High School in 1972 and Central Connecticut State University

in 1976, with a BA degree in English Literature/ Journalism. While attending college she worked several jobs to support her education costs. One of those jobs was as a freelance reporter at the former Hartford Times newspaper. After graduating, she continued at the Times as a full-time reporter and then a partner in a new newspaper, named Windsor Locks Journal. She went on to work as a reporter for the Holyoke Tribune and then as Editor of Company Newspapers at UTC/ Pratt & Whitney. Mary worked in the communications department at Northeast Utilities until joining the Town of Windsor, as Assistant Town Manager. In 1991, she became the Director of Communications at Capitol Region Education Council (CREC). In 2006, she took her lifelong love for books and opened "Mimi's Book Attic" store, dedicated to antique, historic and rare book publications. Mary had a vast knowledge of many different topics with her favorite subjects being birds, fishing, swimming, and making delicious desserts. Her happiest times were at her beloved Staffordville Lake, enjoying all its beauty with family. Mary was an intelligent, caring, and compassionate woman who was a friend and mentor to so many. She will be remembered fondly by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. She showed strength and bravery when diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in her early fifties. Her first concern when given this devastating diagnosis was how much this was going to impact her family. She is survived by her husband, William, step daughter, Deborah Forbes, and grandchildren, Madison and Jake Mitzkovitz, all of Stafford Springs. In addition, she is also survived by siblings, Deborah Smith (William), Patti Rylander (William), Julie Nichols (Donald), Amy Vendoloski (Joel), Ronald Wells (Joyce), and David Wells, (Terri), brother-in-law, Douglas Forbes, and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by brothers Stephen and Douglas Wells. Calling hours will be on Sunday, January 2, 2022 from 11 A.M. – 1 P.M., with a funeral service to take place at 1 P.M., at Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc., 51East Main St., Stafford Springs, CT. A reception for family and friends will follow the service at Four Seasons by The Lake restaurant, located at 51 Old Springfield Rd., Stafford Springs, CT. Those wishing to donate in Mary's name may do so to the Alzheimer's Association, 200 Executive Blvd. S. #4b, Southington, CT 06489. To leave a condolence online for the family, please visit: www.introvignefuneralhome.com



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OBITUARIES

Hazen, Jr., Ralph W.



COLEBROOK – Ralph Wallace Hazen, Jr., passed away peacefully Thursday, December 23, 2021 at his Colebrook, CT home surrounded by his loving family. He was the devoted husband of Valerie M. (Carlson) Hazen for 64 years. Ralph was born August 14, 1936 in Manchester, CT to the late Ralph W. Hazen, Sr., and Mary (Tracey) Hazen.



In high school, Ralph joined the Rockville Bugle Drum Corps and marched in every parade he could. Ralph had an entrepreneurial spirit and a love for automobiles, and at 16 he took a job for a diaper company in Manchester and then Munson's Chocolates, to buy a car of his own. Since then, it's been a challenge to count the many two-wheel and four-wheel vehicles he's owned. Ralph was also a member of the CT National Guard, worked with his father's woodworking business, and opened and operated his own business, Hazen Home Gas for many years.

Ralph married Valerie in 1957, and in 1961, they built their impeccably maintained home in Colebrook with help from Ralph's father and younger brothers. Having been someone who, even as a teenager, would follow emergency vehicles to see how he might help, he was a natural to become a CT State Trooper in 1963.

He was assigned to Troop B, then became a Resident Trooper in New Hartford. In 1968, Ralph and Val welcomed their son Matthew, who completed their family. He later joined the CT State Police Fire Marshal's office in Meriden. His knowledge of propane and fire led to his becoming a consultant/spokesperson for CT and other states. During his working years, he never missed a ball game where his son Matt was playing. Ralph was such a likable guy and forged many relationships due to his kindness and willingness to help wherever he could.

He retired as Lieutenant from CSP after 25 years of dedicated service having made many friends of all ranks. In retirement, he enjoyed hunting and trout/salmon fishing, but also went to work for Lombard Ford (cars!) and he did the best by his customers. Ralph really didn't retire because he continued to serve as a consultant for both the State of CT and the Fire Marshal offices in Norfolk and Colebrook.

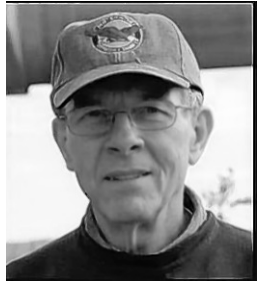
He loved his Colebrook community and was very involved with the Colebrook-Forge Volunteer Fire Department serving as Treasurer and Fire Marshal for many years as a first responder and had been recently recognized for 60+ years of service. He also held the position of Second Selectman for Colebrook. Ralph was a quiet gentleman who loved his family, and his caring for others showed in everything he said and did.

Ralph leaves his loving wife, Valerie and his beloved son retired CT State Trooper, Matthew Hazen, his cherished grandson, Sean M. Hazen, Matthew's fiancée, Lindsay West; siblings Marcia Woulfe, Richard Hazen, Catherine (Frederick) Taft, Robert (Karen) Hazen and Raymond Hazen, and many nieces, nephews and friends, including Ines Hazen. Ralph was predeceased by his granddaughter Cassidy Anne.

Friends may visit with family Sunday, January 2, 2022 at Montano-Shea Funeral Home, 922 Main Street, Winsted from 1 – 4 PM. Funeral service and interment are private. Ralph's family requests in lieu of flowers, a donation if you wish, to the Colebrook Forge Volunteer Fire Department, 300 Colebrook River Road, Colebrook, CT 06021. Visit an online guestbook at Montano-Shea.com.

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Johnston, II, James



James R. Johnston II of Newnan GA passed away in the early morning hours of Christmas day at Piedmont Hospital in Newnan. He was surrounded by his wife Jackie and family.

Jim was born on October 10, 1942 in Pittsburg PA. to the late James Robert Johnston Sr. and Helen Hahn Johnston.

He was married to Jacqueline Brunelle Johnston for 26 adventurous years. Jim proudly served in the U.S. Airforce. He retired from Pratt Whitney after 42 years of service. He had several international assignments and finished his career at Delta Airlines in Atlanta, GA as a Field Service Representative for Pratt Whitney. During his career he received many awards and recognition for his work.

Survivors includes siblings Fredrick (Janice) and Judi Johnston. Daughters Katherine Johnston, Rachel Johnston-Neel (Becca), Stefanie Sawyer (Josh). He also leaves three grandchildren with another grand baby on the way. Nieces Jen, Beth, and Ryan and was predeceased by his nephew Trevor.

Jim's love was all things automotive, racing and aeronautical. He was a member of SCCA and raced on the Formula V Circuit for many years. He was a licensed pilot and built his own experimental airplane. He was a member of the Commemorative Air Force which specializes in restoring and maintaining WWII Aircraft. Jim restored many cars and motorcycles over the years including his favorite Model A Ford. All of his work was done with precision and not presented unless it was deemed perfect. He will be greatly missed by his many friends.

The service is Saturday, February 5, 2022 at 4:00 pm at McKoon Funeral Home, Newnan, GA. Kathy Kelly Huey will officiate and the service will be live streamed at www.mckoon.com

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Lindberg, Margaret H.



John.

Peg was the youngest of the five Heffron children, raised in East Hartford with three sisters and one brother. She developed her love of sports at an early age and it carried through high school and into her adult life – as participant, spectator, coach and, occasionally, psychologist. Her knowledge and love of baseball, football and golf were passed on to her children. Her steady swing and unparalleled putting stroke led to multiple championships at Hop Meadow Country Club, where she and Chuck were charter members.

After an engagement stretched out by Chuck's Coast Guard posting during the Korean Conflict, they wed in 1954 and settled in Simsbury in 1959. They never left, raising five children while being very active in their church and community. Peg was involved with many organizations in town, including the then Simsbury VNA, performing theater groups, and almost any youth sporting league and event. She and Chuck were named Simsbury Hometown Heroes together, a recognition of their service to the community that reflected how well they complemented and supported one another.

Peg was a regular presence at swimming and cross country meets, baseball and football games, offering support and guidance. Though she never learned to ski, there were countless hours chauffeuring her children to the slopes and knitting sweaters while they learned. And her chocolate chip cookies were legendary. As her family grew over the years, cheering on her grandchildren brought on more games, dance and music recitals, and graduation ceremonies. Peg was always "present" and always a "force" when it came to her family. She was particularly proud that all four of her sons became Eagle Scouts while part of Simsbury Troop 176.

Peg enjoyed traveling the world with Chuck during their 57 years together. Their love of golf took them to many places, often with some of the children in tow. She could take pleasure in adventures large or small, and even greater joy in sharing them with family.

Peg is survived by her three sons, Bob Lindberg and his wife Carol of East Granby, Bill Lindberg and his wife Theresa of Charlotte, NC, and Jim Lindberg of East Granby; and her daughter, Susan Brinegar and her husband Jack of Granby. She also leaves behind ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The family wishes to extend our deepest gratitude to mom's caregivers, with a very special thank you to Angella Hinds and Jane Kwaku for their kindness and wonderful caring. We are truly blessed and eternally grateful.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Peg will be celebrated at 10AM on Monday, January 3, 2022 at St. Mary's Church, 942 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury. There are no calling hours and guests are asked to arrive directly at church. Interment will follow at Simsbury Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to the Farmington Valley VNA, 8 Old Mill Lane, Simsbury, CT 06070 or to a local food bank of your choice. The Hayes-Huling & Carmon Funeral Home of Granby is in care of the arrangements. To leave a memory or condolence message for Peg's family, and to view the service virtually, please visit her obituary online at www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



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LaBella, Salvatore J.



The world lost a great family man last Sunday, when Salvatore J. LaBella of Bolton, formerly of Haddam, died at 88 on December 26, 2021 at St. Francis Hospital. Never one to spoil a good meal, he had the courtesy to not interfere with Christmas before joining his parents Joseph and Angelina (Gullitti) LaBella, where we are sure he and his mother are now running God's kitchen. He was born in Middletown, CT, a proud Sicilian-American, and in him you could see the best of both cultures. He had a tireless work ethic, as exemplified first as a sailor on a Naval destroyer, then as a union carpenter, and finally at Pratt & Whitney, where he worked overtime for decades constructing fan assemblies. For years, before starting on second shift Sal would join his late brother Frank S. LaBella at his mother's house for a homecooked meal and family company. He used his skills to personally build the houses his family lived in, and with the help of his bride of 57 years, Virginia "Ginny" M. (Ierardi) LaBella, he raised three beautiful daughters. His home cooking, much of which originated in his backyard garden, drew a constant stream of family and friends. When not working, he took his family on long vacations to Cape Cod, where he taught generations the art of clamming, card playing, and relaxing on the beach. He used his encyclopedic memory and dry humor to both entertain and teach, whether recollecting his youth as a "River Rat" or snickering as he stole a trick at the Set Back table. Until the very end, Sal stayed engaged with the world, reading the Hartford Courant, watching Boston sports, and sharing his culinary skills on his YouTube channel "Sicilian Sal." In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughters, Lisa and her husband Roberto Zaccardelli of Bolton, Pamela LaBella of Studio City, CA, and Kristen LaBella and her fiancé John Segien of Manchester; granddaughters, Giuliana and Alessandra Zaccardelli, Angelina and Lucia Spielman; and many nieces and nephews. Special thank you to the teams at the medical and cardiac ICUs at St. Francis Hospital, and to Eric and his team at Fresenius Kidney Care East Hartford, for their compassionate care of our father and grandfather over the past few years. His Funeral Liturgy will be held on Thursday, December 30th at 12 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Elm St., Middletown. Burial, with military honors, will follow in St. Sebastian Cemetery, Rockfall. Friends may call at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, on Thursday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Masks are required at all services. In lieu of flowers, those who wish may send memorial contributions to K9s for Warriors (<https://www.k9sforwarriors.org/>) or the American Kidney Fund (<http://www.kidneyfund.org/>). To share memories or express condolences online please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

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Lamy, Barbara Jean



Barbara Jean (Brouker) Lamy, 88, passed peacefully, embraced by the abundant affection of her family on December 27, 2021. She is desperately missed and lovingly remembered by her children Patricia Donini of Pennsylvania, Nancy and Mark Blum of Watertown, Catherine and David Pompei of Georgia, Jacqueline and

Richard Clukey of Terryville, Karen Lamy Mangine and Karen Leonard of Torrington, Kristin and Edward Droste of New Hampshire, and Rebecca and William Thompson V of Burlington. Barbara shared fond childhood stories of the care she received at Newington Children's Hospital where she learned to sew, knit, and cook. Memories of her Christmas gingerbread people and her blue-ribbon blueberry pie bring smiles to the faces of her grandchildren Steve and Alice Lowe, Jeff, Greg, and Alex Blum, Aaron and Adrian Pompei, Justin Clukey, Rachel Mane, Jessica Waters, Sophie Mangine, Lee, Kristian, and Hedi Droste, and Alex and Zack Thompson. Barbara expressed her creativity and joy of life in gardening and canning food, crocheting, and sharing these gifts with her eleven great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. After graduating from Bristol High School in 1951 Barbara became a licensed practical nurse and used her skills for a lifetime of caring for her patients, family, and friends. Barbara grew up in a time when the ice man came around with blocks for the ice box, and neighborhood kids gathered for pickup baseball games. She was the daughter of the late Robert and Charlotte (Hempstead) Brouker. Her life demonstrated the value of family, so she was grateful to have time to say goodbye to many of her siblings. She is survived by Charlene Bechard and Donna Cook of Plainville, Raymond Brouker and Ruth Rideout of Terryville, and Shirley Ford of Arizona. She was predeceased by George, Allyn, Roger, Donald and Dorothy Brouker, and Lydia Lamy. As she prepared for her passing, Barbara looked forward to reuniting with her husband George L. Lamy and son George R. Lamy who predeceased her. Calling hours will be Thursday, 6:00 pm to 8:00 p.m. at Scott Funeral Home, 169 Main St., Terryville. A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated Friday, 10:00 a.m. at the Immaculate Conception Church, Terryville. Burial will follow in Saint Mary Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Connecticut Children's Hospital. www.scottfuneralhomeinc.com

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Mahoney, Timothy J.



Timothy Joseph Mahoney, 85, of Suffield and Fort Myers FL, beloved husband of Mary (Fitzgibbons) Mahoney, died peacefully surrounded by his family and entered into eternal life on December 26th, 2021. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend to all who knew him. Tim will always be remembered for his kindness, generosity, his



roaring laugh and countless stories. Tim was the son of Jeremiah O'Mahony and Margaret (McSweeney) O'Mahony, born on February 21, 1936, in Ballydehob, County Cork, Ireland. He immigrated to the United States in 1957 and settled in Hartford County where he met his wife Mary and he married in 1962. Although only in his adopted country for six months, Tim joined the United States National Guard in 1958 and did his basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. He worked for Aetna, Main Line Homes, and Variety Homes before he opened his own company with Mary's blessing, Timwood Homes, in Newington, CT in 1972. He was a member of the Home Builders Association for many years and an active member of his community. In 1976 he built his family home in Suffield, CT where many family members still live. Tim lived a life devoted to his faith. He has been a communicant and supporter of Sacred Heart Church in Suffield for over 40 years. Heaven has been waiting for him.

He continued building and renovating homes throughout his life, but Tim was happiest when he was with his family. His presence was always a welcome gift. Tim valued so many people and relationships built throughout his life with his family, many friends, and neighbors.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary (Fitzgibbons) Mahoney; son Jeremiah Mahoney and his wife Lori; four daughters Colleen Webber and her partner John Toomey, Kimberly Saxton and her husband Bruce, Deirdre Summa and her husband Joseph, Kathleen Budnik and her husband Daniel; and eleven grandchildren Kathleen Summa Hulevitch, Jessica and James Summa, Grace, Sophia, and Tadhg Mahoney, Carly and Taylor Webber, Arianna Saxton, Timothy and Joshua Budnik; and one great grandchild John Hulevitch. He was predeceased by his parents Jeremiah and Mary O'Mahony, and his brother William O'Mahony. He leaves behind his loving brother, Jeremiah O'Mahony and his wife Ellen, his sister Eileen Mannix, and their children and grandchildren.

The Funeral Services will be on Saturday, January 1, 2022, with a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:30AM in Sacred Heart Church, Suffield. Friends may call to the Heritage Funeral Home, 1240 Mountain Road, Suffield from 9:00-11:00AM on Saturday prior to the Funeral Mass. Burial will be in the spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Suffield Ambulance Association, Suffield, CT 06078. For online condolences please visit: www.SuffieldFuneralHome.com

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OBITUARIES

Packer, Jane M (McGrath)



Jane was a caring mother, grandmother, aunt, and warm-hearted friend to all who had the chance to meet and know her. Jane passed away, surrounded by her loving family, on December 2nd, 2021 at the age of 86.

Born Jane Anne McGrath on July 27th, 1935 in New Rochelle, NY, she was the daughter of Martin Francis and Virginia Crennan McGrath. The family very early on moved and settled in East Windsor Hill, CT where she was raised along with her younger siblings Martin (Marty) and Ellen (Lyn) who both predeceased her.

At the age of 8, Jane survived one of the country's largest fire disasters, The Hartford Circus Fire of 1944 alongside her brother Marty. She graduated from Mary A. Burnham School in 1953, and from Endicott College in 1956.

Jane started her early career working at Newsweek while living in New York, where she married James Packer, before they moved to Chicago. In the mid 1960's her sons James (Jim) and David (Dave) were both born and then shortly thereafter the family moved to the San Marino area of California where Jane prospered and raised her sons. For the past 15 years Jane resided in Laguna Woods, CA.

Throughout her life Jane was a devoted mother and grandmother, loved travel, as well as studying art and design, and cuisine; her braised short-ribs were excellent! Her creative passion led her to return to school and study Interior Design at UCLA, which became her career, as well as making her the go-to person on how-to spruce up any event or holiday, creating lasting memories for her family and friends. Her art endeavors were inspirational to the end and included a lifetime of schooling, which included photography, calligraphy, sketching / painting, and in her later years a deep enjoyment and appreciation for making hand-crafted jewelry.

Known as the 'glue' of the immediate and extended family, Jane will be remembered for her kindness, warmth, personal strength and resilience, sense of humor, creative spirit, and the ability to make everyone feel welcome and at home.

Always proud to boast about family, Jane is survived by her two sons: James W. Packer and his wife Suzanne Packer, of Manhattan Beach, CA.; David Packer and his wife, Veronica Packer, of Sunnyvale, CA.; and her beloved grandchildren Jonathan James Packer, and Mackenzie Packer, as well as her large extended family of Kovels and McGraths in Connecticut, the Rowlands of upstate New York, and the many friends who had the opportunity to know her.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given in Jane's honor to Stoneleigh-Burnham School, 574 Bernardston Road, Greenfield, MA 01301

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Russell, Anna Irene (Lecakes)

Anna Irene Russell, 97, formerly of Winsted and a long-time resident of Newington, passed away peacefully at home on December 19, 2021. Born on July 4, 1924, in Winsted, Anna was the daughter of the late Thomas and Anna (Hotchkiss) Lecakes. She was the beloved wife of the late David M. Russell, Sr. who predeceased her in 1993.

She is survived by her children, David M. Russell, Jr. of East Hartford and Susan Geiger and her husband George of Avon, her grandchildren, Marianne Geiger of Mechanicsburg, PA and Jeff Geiger and his wife Caroline of Burlington, as well as her great grandchildren, Stella and Willow. Anna is also survived by her caretaker for the last ten years, Emma. The family wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to Emma for being alongside and caring for their mother as if she were your own. Besides her husband David, Anna was predeceased by her sister Helen Mary Cahill and her brother-in-law Joseph Cahill.

Relatives and friends are invited to call on Anna's family on Wednesday, January 5th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington. Words of Remembrance will be shared by the family at 6:45 p.m. Burial will be held privately in Burlington Center Cemetery, Burlington, CT. Those who wish may make memorial contributions to the CT Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111. To leave an online expression of sympathy, please visit: www.duksa.net.



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Willis, Betty



Betty Jean Willis, 96, passed away peacefully in her residence at Seabury Retirement Community in Bloomfield, CT, Thursday December 23, 2021. Born in Bellingham Washington in February of 1925, she graduated from Bellingham High School in 1943. She attended the University of Washington and was active in the Phi Beta Phi sorority. While at the university, she met her beloved husband of 51 years Robert H. Willis, who was a naval officer from Fall River, MA stationed at Whidbey Island, WA. Together they lived in Mineola, NY, and Ashtabula, OH, before settling in Westport, CT in 1959. When Bob became President of The Hartford Gas Company they moved to Bloomfield, CT, where they lived for many years. As Bob built the gas company into Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation, Betty completed her undergraduate degree at The University of Hartford. She was an active volunteer for numerous civic organizations such as the Hartford Symphony Auxillary, the Annie Fisher School in North Hartford, and Literacy Volunteers. Betty was an accomplished artist, whose favorite medium was water color. She enjoyed sports such as tennis and golf; she knocked in two holes in one during her golf career. One of her greatest pleasures was spending many beautiful summers on Martha's Vineyard Island with her children and grandchildren. While wintering in Stuart, FL, she also became a golf croquet instructor and founded the Mariner Sands Croquet Club, which now boasts over 250 members. Upon moving to the Seabury Retirement Community in 2009 she started an active croquet program and donated all of the equipment, as well.

Betty is survived by her son Mark Willis and his wife Patricia of Simsbury, CT, her grandson Scott Willis, his wife Erin and great grandchildren Luke and Sloane of Berwyn, PA, and her grandson Brett Willis and his wife Haley and great grandchildren Poppy and June of Portland, ME.

A memorial service will be held on Martha's Vineyard Island during the summer of 2022 in Betty's honor. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the East Chop Tennis Club, 59 Brewster Ave., Vineyard Haven, MA 02568.






































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DREAMSTIME

Brain-based battle

By Laura Yuen
Star Tribune

Diving into son's ADHD diagnosis allows mom to see own struggles

It was one of those books so engrossing that I didn't see the twist coming. The neuropsychologist who diagnosed my first-born son with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) recommended it so I could better understand how my oldest was wired. The title, "Smart But Scattered," seemed like a brilliant description for my creative, distracted second-grader. Filling out a questionnaire in the book, I showed no mercy while judging his ability to remember where he put his hat and gloves, or whether he could stick to a morning routine before school. No surprises here. But a few pages later, I had to evaluate myself as a parent. On a scale from 1 to 7, the book implored, how would I rate myself on the following statements? No matter what the task, I believe in getting started as soon as possible. Procrastination is usually not a problem for me. I have a good memory for facts, dates and details. It is natural for me to keep my work area neat and organized. Welp! Who wrote this book, and how do they have a window into my dishev-

eled, free-spirited soul? When COVID-19 shut down classrooms last year, I watched my son struggle with distance learning. It was heartbreaking to see him drag out a simple exercise — write five sentences about a favorite memory — from what should have been 15 minutes into several hours, then melt down in frustration. He started to resent school and lose confidence in himself. The pandemic forced me to get my son the help he needed. And it was only through learning about my child's ADHD that I realized I probably have some version of it, too. As a 44-year-old mom coming to terms with my own ADHD-like symptoms — including disorganization, problems completing tasks and difficulties with focusing — I am experiencing a kind of clarity I wish I'd had decades earlier. It's common for parents to realize they might have ADHD when navigating the diagnosis for their children, said Dr. Lidia Zylowska, a psychiatrist with the University of Minnesota Medical School. "Initially, there may be excitement, you know — this really explains my life,"

she said. She knows of many adults who seek out diagnosis and benefit from treatment, including therapy and medication. But after a period of reflection and learning about themselves, some have a sense of regret, especially if they dropped out of school or struggled with substance abuse. "There may be a sense of sadness and even anger, that if I had the right support, my life would be different," she said. ADHD runs in families and has significant genetic predisposition. If you have it, there is a 40% or better chance that your child will have ADHD. The condition exists on a spectrum and sometimes escapes notice in childhood, said Zylowska, who wrote the book "The Mindfulness Prescription for Adult ADHD." And it's especially overlooked in girls. Among children, the boy-to-girl ratio of diagnosis is about 4-to-1. But among adults, the ratio edges closer to 1-to-1, Zylowska said. One reason that ADHD can go undetected is that girls tend to have symptoms of inattentiveness, rather than overt hyperac-

tivity. Think of the boy who is interrupting his classmates, playing too rough or doing cartwheels in the classroom. That kind of impulsive behavior is more likely to be flagged by a teacher than a girl quietly spacing out during social studies. Growing up I was a model student; a B-plus in high school would have disappointed my parents and me. I'm sure none of my teachers would have ever guessed I was neurodivergent in any way. I also was a pleaser, so my parents' expectations for straight A's pushed me to near the top of my high school class. But in college, I was surrounded by fellow high-achieving nerds. The coursework, especially the crush of required reading, overwhelmed me. For the first time in my life, I dealt with depression, anxiety and overpowering feelings of self-doubt. Zylowska says college can be a vulnerable time for people with ADHD. Other stressful transitions may include starting one's first real job, getting promoted, moving to a new city, and becoming a parent. In her practice, Zylowska has seen adults success-

fully manage their ADHD by adopting tricks that have worked for them. Maybe it's scheduling breaks throughout the day, finding time to exercise, or turning to hobbies that replenish them — on their time. "But once you're a parent, your ability to do that is compromised," she said. "At the end of the day, you have to not just get yourself ready for the evening, but you have to get your children ready for bath and ready for bed. And that requires a lot of executive functions to direct them, because children will often not want to do what you ask them to do. It's hard to then stay calm, effective and consistent when you're depleted yourself." She added that mothers with ADHD often have to face gendered expectations and an emotional burden about who is responsible for organizing the house and planning their kids' schedules. Even putting dinner on the table can be a struggle. I told her that for more than 20 years, I was able to mask my symptoms by throwing myself into journalism. I thrive on deadlines, learning something new every day, and working with others who, like me,

are plungers rather than planners. I was lucky to land in a career where my adaptability and spontaneity were considered strengths. My strategies for getting things done (like this column!) include life hacks like the Pomodoro Technique — setting a timer for 25 minutes to do a single task. Once I get going, I usually find I can do 25 minutes more. But I wish my old college self would have known that I wasn't dumb or lazy. I wish my newly married self knew how to stop when I was getting hyperfocused at work, letting everything else fall away. I wish the parent in me could be gentler on herself for not being that mom who planned perfect birthday parties. When life gets more complex for my son, I want him to know I share his brain-based struggles. I'll also remind him that there are gifts associated with ADHD, such as his limitless energy and imagination. As for myself, I'm not sure where I go from here. Other ADHD women in my life say therapy and medication have made a world of difference, but I haven't sought an official diagnosis yet. I'll make sure to do that — tomorrow.

EX-ETIQUETTE

Make boundaries clear to partner for happy relationship

By Jann Blackstone
Tribune News Service

Q. My ex and I have been divorced for almost 10 years. We are friends, that's it. We share children and we have always worked together on that basis. Not long after the breakup, I started dating someone else. We started off as friends, and I probably confided too much about my feelings for my

ex — I told my friend my ex was the love of my life. Fast forward to today. My friend is now my girlfriend, and she has never forgotten what I told her about my ex. My girlfriend's insecurity is interfering with my relationship with my kids because she is so jealous of their mother. My girlfriend is saying I can't see my kids if my ex is there. What's good ex-etiquette?

A. I'm all for honesty as the best policy. But be careful about volunteering too much about your feelings and the past. Reason being? Feelings change. Right after a breakup, when you are heartbroken and doing some soul-searching, regret may be front of mind, which can intensify feelings of love and loss. However, put a few years under your belt, and that "love of your life" may become someone you

respect and were happy to know, but you've moved on. Then you have to convince someone you care for now that maybe you didn't mean it after all. It's not surprising she doesn't believe you. She's probably afraid you will go back to her. After all, you share children, and she was the love of your life. New partners can have a very long memory. A relationship based on fear and insecurity is a very unhappy relationship for

both parties, and when that fear and insecurity bleeds into your relationship with your children, that's a huge red flag. You can't take back what you said, but you could sincerely explain your feelings have changed and make a pact to go forward together. If she can't let it go, take a serious look at that. That will keep you stuck in the past and is very unhealthy for everyone. Neither of you will be able to progress to the



DREAMSTIME

person you want to be now or have the relationship you are fully capable of having together. You're both on the defense. No game can be won when all the players are on the defensive line.



Hartford Courant

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CELEBRITIES

TikTok to host New Year’s Eve party

From news services

TikTok will host a lives-treamed New Year’s Eve party featuring perfor-mances from Charlie Puth, Kali Uchis and Rico Nasty as many people are plan-ning stay-at-home cele-brations amid the latest COVID-19 surge. The hour-and-15-minute event will go live at 9 p.m. East-ern time Friday.

The concert will feature performances from three music artists who made their mark on Tik Tok this year. Grammy-nom-inated singer-songwriter Puth was one of the most-viewed artists on Tik Tok in 2021, Uchis’ song “Telepa-tia” was the top Latin song of the year on Tik Tok, and rapper Rico Nasty is a prolific creator on the app with 1.8 million Tik Tok followers.

Along with the artist performances, Tik Tok’s New Year’s Eve live event will feature appearances from popular creators.

Author Brown settles lawsuit: “The Da Vinci Code” author Dan Brown and his ex-wife have agreed to settle a lawsuit in which she alleged he led a secret life during their marriage that included several affairs.

The couple agreed to voluntary dismiss the lawsuit and “any and all claims and counterclaims in this matter,” accord-ing to court papers filed Monday in a New Hamp-shire court.

“Blythe Brown and Dan Brown have reached an amicable resolution of their disagreements, and will have no further comment,” Blythe Brown’s attorney Harvey Wolkoff said in a statement.

No further details on the settlement were provided.

In her lawsuit filed last year, Blythe Brown called her ex-husband’s behavior “unlawful and egregious” and accused the bestselling



Charlie Puth will perform during Tik Tok’s livestreamed New Year’s Eve concert Friday. **FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY 2020**

author of secretly diverting funds to pay for gifts to an unnamed horse trainer.

At the time of the lawsuit, Dan Brown said he was “stunned” by the allegations and called the complaint “written with-out regard for the truth.” He said he never misled his ex-wife on their finances during their divorce and that she ended up with half their holdings after they split up.

The couple divorced in 2019 after 21 years of marriage.

Rodrigo, BTS among most streamed acts: Olivia Rodrigo, the pop music upstart with seven Grammy nominations, is one of the most streamed music acts across all forms of music in 2021.

According to the Digi-tal Media Association — which compiles data from Amazon, Apple Music, Pandora, Spotify and YouTube Music — Rodrigo

is the top of the pops, followed by K-pop super-group BTS and Doja Cat.

The singer, 18, ranked as No. 1 among Spotify’s top songs list with her “drivers license,” which was also No. 2 on Apple Music and No. 5 on Amazon Music. Spotify also identified Rodrigo’s “Sour” as the most streamed album.

BTS landed in the top spot on Apple Music’s top songs list. On Spotify, the South Korean teen heart-throbs were No. 3 among the leading streaming plat-form’s top artists.

Dec. 29 birthdays: Actor Jon Voight is 83. Singer Marianne Faithfull is 75. Actor Ted Danson is 74. Actor Patricia Clarkson is 62. Journalist Ashleigh Banfield is 54. Director Lilly Wachowski is 54. Actor Jude Law is 49. Actor Mekhi Phifer is 47. Actor Katherine Moennig is 44. Actor Alison Brie is 39. Actor Jane Levy is 32.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Teenage besties might not be a good match

Dear Amy: I am very upset. I have a best friend, “Lizzie.” Lizzie and I have been best friends since we attended daycare together, and now we are juniors in high school.

Lizzie has always been bossy. She wants things to be her way.

Lately, it has gotten bad. Lizzie only hangs out with me and gets mad if I hang with other people.

So now it’s always just the two of us.

But that’s not the worst part. She has been trying to “jokingly” hold my hand and cuddle. I don’t want this. I don’t know what to say to her. I just walk away and make up an excuse to go somewhere else.

We’re both girls, which is fine, but this is not me.

I am into guys. I don’t want everyone at school thinking I don’t like guys when they see us together.

She also gets mad when I am interested in anyone else.

Is she really just joking? Is she controlling?

— *Uncomfortable*

Dear Uncomfortable: If “Lizzie” is isolating you and gets angry and jealous when you hang out with anyone else then yes, this is controlling behavior.

It sounds as if Lizzie has always been the “alpha” of the two of you, mean-ing that she dominates the friendship. Now that you’re older, this behavior is getting more extreme, perhaps because she senses or is afraid that she is losing control over you.

No one should touch or try to “cuddle” you if you don’t want them to. You must speak up. Be real and honest: “I don’t want to hold hands.” You could

ask Lizzie, “Are you joking when you do stuff like that, or do you have romantic feelings for me?”

If she says she is joking, accept that as her answer.

You should also try to talk about your friendship. Tell her that she is really important to you, but that you also want to branch out and bring new people into your circle. Encourage her to do the same.

I hope you will be able to be honest and respect-ful toward Lizzie, but if her behavior intensifies and you’re worried about your-self — or her — you must go to an adult for help.

Crisis Text Line is a great resource for support: Text the word HOME to 741-741 any time and you will connect with some-one who will do their best to help.

Dear Amy: I am disap-pointed to see you pandering to extremists by adopting made-up meaningless words like “nibbling.” As cute a word as it is, our language unites us culturally and regionally.

Please don’t be bullied into divisive language by new age political correct-ness. Thank you for your consideration.

— *Ann*

Dear Ann: Language is always changing and (to use synonyms employed through the last 100 years) I think this evolu-tion is capital, dandy, cool, awesome, rad, certified fresh and dy-no-mite!

I especially like the term “nibbling,” when referring to a sibling’s offspring. This word is not offered up by “extremists,” but seems to have bubbled up through the word soup.

According to Merriam-Webster, “nibbling” was first coined by a Yale professor “... in the early 1950s but was rela-tively obscure for several decades before being revived in recent years.”

The word “nibbling” first appeared in this column in 2014.

This term is helpful if you don’t know the gender, don’t want to designate gender, or are referring to a group of people in the “nibbling” category. Compared to other detailed and inclu-sive descriptors, “nibbling” is also an efficient space-saver, which is always welcome in a column with constraints, such as this one.

Dear Amy: “Big Tipper” said that if you can’t afford a 20% tip, you shouldn’t go out to eat — and you agreed!

Really, you are saying that I can’t ever go out to eat if I can’t give a big tip?

My waitress mother would rather have the joy of meeting new people for a minimal tip than have the restaurant close because there are no patrons.

No, it’s not generous, its entitled.

— *Ready to Dine Out*

Dear Ready: A few people called this my Marie Antoi-nette moment, but in my opinion (having been a waitress), the joy a restaur-ant worker receives from “meeting new people” is cold comfort, compared to compensation.

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Rowe ready to shine a light on more ‘Dirty Jobs’ in new version

By Luaine Lee
Tribune News Service

At last Mike Rowe, the genial host of the series “Dirty Jobs,” comes clean. And though he seems suited to the role, hosting a TV show was never on his clipboard.

When he was 19, he says, he looked to his future “and saw nothing but a void, a dark void. I thought, ‘I can’t even imagine myself with a wife and kids. I can’t imagine myself without a wife and kids. I can’t imagine getting a steady paycheck. I can’t imagine working for anybody who would give me one. I can’t imagine wanting one.’ I couldn’t imagine any scenario for happiness.”

It was right after grad-uating that he began to panic. “I can’t remember a moment when I was more unsettled than when I finished high school and had absolutely no idea what to do, no idea,” he says.

The turning point came one night when he described his day in his journal. “I sat down about 10 o’clock and started writing, and an hour later I looked up, and the sun was coming up. I thought, ‘How ... is the sun coming up at 11 o’clock at night?’ Of course, it wasn’t. I had sat there all night writ-ing a couple dozen pages in the journal about what happened that day.

“Now was it any good? Would a publisher take that and say, ‘Oh, my god, you’re a savant!’ No, I don’t think so. But what I learned and what gave me real hope was that when you’re doing something that you’re really enjoying and really focus on, you can compress time.”

Compressing time is what Rowe does on “Dirty Jobs,” which returns to the Discovery Channel in



Host Mike Rowe finds himself inside an escalator pit in the new version of “Dirty Jobs.” **SCHOOL OF HUMANS/DISCOVERY**

a new incarnation on Jan. 2. Whether he’s neck-deep in a sewer, farming worm dung or collecting alligator eggs, Rowe exposes view-ers to the unsung heroes of our society — the folks who make it all work.

“I’m basically imper-sonating a motivational speaker and the basic message is this idea: I meet people who don’t make a lot of money, who work 12 hours a day. You make \$500,000 year, why are they happier than you? Why are they having a better time? Why are they better balanced? Why does the beer taste colder at the end of the day? The dialogue that comes out of those is really interesting. ... The ditch digger, at the end of a day, has a ditch. And your desk looks the same as it did.”

The show not only honors the worker, he says. “This was a love letter to risk and entrepreneurship and women, people who prospered as a result of leaning a skill and went on to create a small business and to giving something back,” he says.

“It was also a love letter to people who did hit the reset button. A lot of people we feature on the

show, they’re driving, they’re prospering, doing something they had no great dream to do. They followed opportunity, in other words, instead of their dreams, and still managed a way to be sat-isfied and prosperous.”

At 59, Rowe himself seems satisfied and pros-perous. “I think you make your own luck,” he remarks. “I think it’s easy to look back at the things that happen to us and say, ‘Well, let me tell you how I did it.’ For me, I never had a long view. I never had a master plan.”

Whether it was fate or dumb luck, he says, “I don’t really know how to think about fate or destiny. The only thing I know for sure is that nobody’s getting out of this alive, and while we’re here, we do have a massive opportunity to persuade, impact, help or hinder. I firmly believe that all of those things are prod-ucts of choices we make.”

Rowe is also writing a book about marketing. “It’s going to have something to do with the fact that — whether we’re a plumber or a writer — we’re all salesmen,” he says. “We have to be now more than ever.”

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): Distant goals may look especially inviting today, but you don’t need to rush toward them. Try and link up with some friends or colleagues whose opinion you truly appreciate, or do something mentally stim-ulating.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Even if your day is empty, you can still find some way to keep yourself busy. Move up the ladder one rung at a time, but to do so with purpose and mean-ing. Your career is giving you the urge to make some progress in your life. Consider starting to make a list of things to achieve.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): People could emerge from the woodwork to help bolster you up, thanks to your partnerships. Normally you probably can handle most things just fine on your own, but right now letting another capable peer help you out is the best way to get things done.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Even if you normally prefer to sleep in, the efficient energy of today should help you jump out of bed and get started without delay. Get your act together for the long term! A project you decide to initiate right now could pay off. Look around your life and figure out how to improve things.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Dec. 29, 1170, Thomas Becket was slain in Canter-bury Cathedral by knights loyal to King Henry II.

In 1851, the first YMCA in the United States was founded in Boston.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You’ll likely be offered a fabulous chance to enjoy yourself with some-one special, so try not to hide away! In particular, platonic or business-ori-ented relationships could greatly benefit today from a little attention right now. You might really impress your peers!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Making things happen is very possible today. Take a look around and see if there’s anything that needs your attention. It could be anything, from a task as small as wiping down the counters to something as important as repairing a useful appliance. You can find something to do!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The way you express your-self is under a spotlight at the moment, making it important for you to consider how you pres-ent yourself to the people around you. Even with their aid, you need to remember to think before you speak and make sure your message is synced.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your focus is being shifted toward your secu-rity systems — but not the literal video surveillance kind. Size up your founda-tions and ensure that they’re as solid as you can make them. If you spot any cracks, do your best to address them so you can move forward with fewer worries.

In 1890, the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as an esti-mated 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them.

In 1916, James Joyce’s “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man” was first published in book form.

In 1989, dissident Vaclav Havel assumed the presi-dency of Czechoslovakia.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The stars are filling your tanks with an extra dose of firepower, one might direct you to some-where very useful and important to your future. A very interesting bit of news or social opportunity could come your way, so listen up because it could have a major impact on your life.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The road less traveled is beckoning you! Come into contact with your ruler. An idea could come to you from out of the blue, or a helpful action from someone else may have a big impact on you. Use this to your financial advan-tage. Don’t look a gift horse in the mouth.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): People could play an important role in your life. Even if you aren’t normally one who follows social currents, joining up with some like-minded souls may benefit you right now. A fated event that requires you to step up and prove yourself could occur when you’re just hanging out.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): There are achievements to be made and work to be done today, but you should have some support when you least expect it. An unknown helper might decide that it’s time to help you with your ascent up a metaphorical mountain. Know that your efforts will pay off and remind your-self that you are not alone!

In 1996, guerrilla and government leaders in Guatemala signed an accord ending 36 years of civil conflict.

In 2006, word reached the United States of the execu-tion of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

In 2007, the New England Patriots ended their regu-lar season with a 16-0 record.

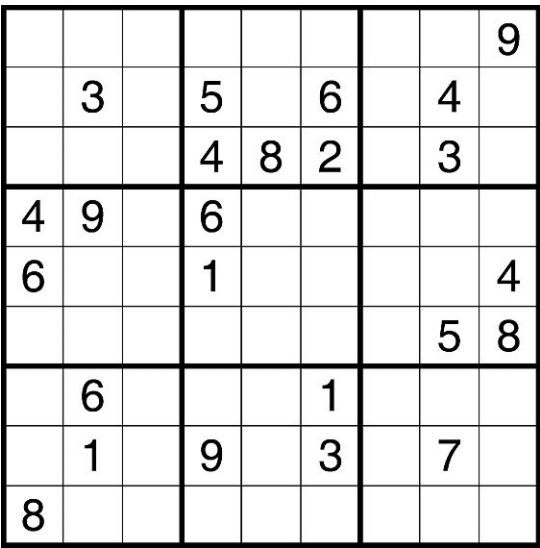
BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](https://www.playjumble.com)



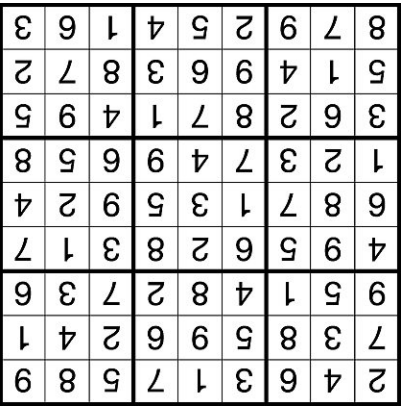
Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU



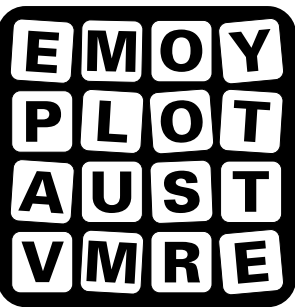
Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



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BOGGLE



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INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE
3 letters = 1 point
4 letters = 2 points
5 letters = 3 points
6 letters = 4 points
7 letters = 5 points
8 letters = 6 points
9+ letters = 10 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING
151+ = Champ
101-150 = Expert
61-100 = Pro
31-60 = Gamer
21-30 = Rookie
11-20 = Amateur
0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?
Find AT LEAST SIX MAMMALS in the grid of letters.

APR MOLE PYMA OTTER MOOSE MOUSE

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: cooking and crafts

251

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

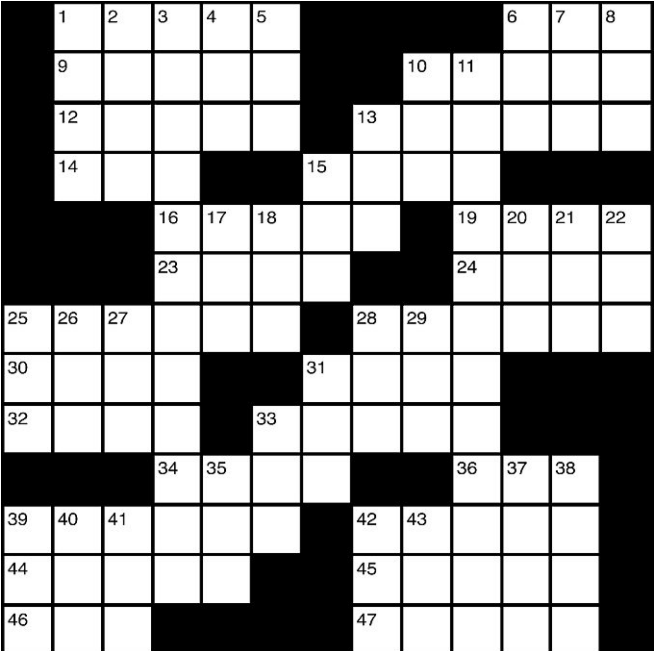


- | | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|------------|
| BAKING | FABRIC | LINEN | SCREWS |
| BENCH | FASHION | MEASURE | SEAM |
| BISCUITS | FELT | MEAT | SEWING |
| BLADE | FRYING | MODEL | SHAPE |
| BOLT | GARMENT | NAILS | SPOON |
| BOWL | GLUE | OVEN | STITCH |
| CAKES | HAMMER | PANS | TACK |
| CLAMP | HEAT | PATTERN | TRIM |
| CLOTH | ICING | RECIPE | VEGETABLES |
| CUTTING | KNIFE | SAWING | VICE |
| DECORATE | LADLE | SCISSORS | WOOD |

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TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/15/15

ACROSS

- "The X-__"
- Halpert; role on "The Office"
- "Home __"; Macaulay Culkin movie
- Bara of silent films
- Wild brawl
- "The __ Woman"; Lindsay Wagner series
- Historical period
- "Win, Lose or __"
- Cheese from Holland
- McGraw and Conway
- Skywalker; character in "Star Wars" films
- "One Flew __ the Cuckoo's Nest"
- Captain Hook, for one
- Ms. Lansbury
- Jacob's twin
- "__ Bloods"
- Rex or Donna
- Actress Eva Marie __
- Actor and folksinger Burl __
- Battery size
- Mike Connors crime series



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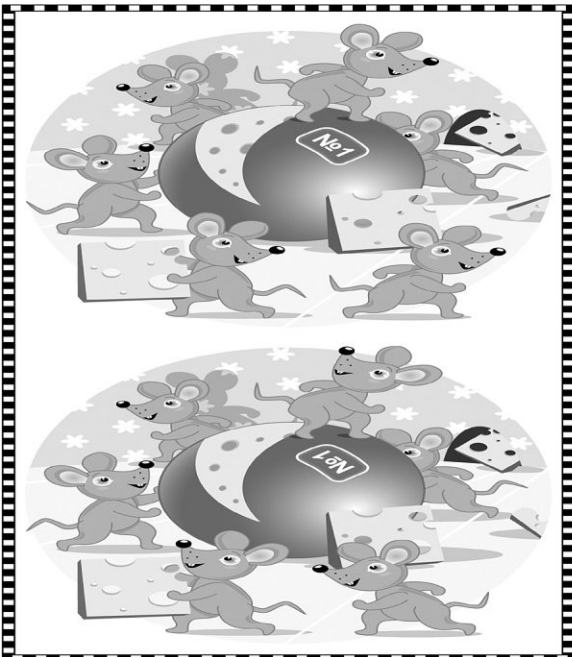
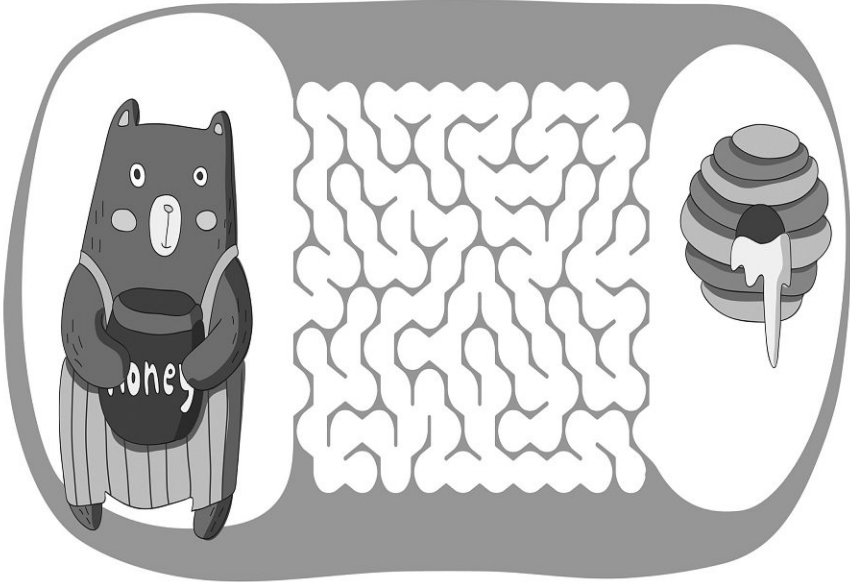
11/15/15

- News anchor and emcee Hugh
- Portrayer of Gomez Addams
- Resident of a Middle East nation
- Slang refusal
- Helen or Isaac

DOWN

- Series set at a school for the performing arts
- Actor Robert of "The Sopranos"
- Actress on "Criminal Minds"
- 180° from WSW
- "Now You __ Me"; Jesse Eisenberg movie
- Bill's wife on "The Little Couple"
- Tyrant __ Amin
- "The Bernie __ Show"
- Tamera Mowry's twin
- "__ with Murder"
- Two-cup item
- Monogram for Mamie's man
- "I'm a Celebrity, Get Me __ of Here!"
- Instrument at a luau, for short
- "__ Got a Secret"
- Alice's boss
- Mrs. in Mexico
- __ person; apiece
- Suffix for treat or expert
- "Norma __"; Sally Field movie
- MacGraw or Larter
- "The Flying __"
- Undergraduate degrees, for short
- "__ and the City"
- Actor Diesel
- Meara or Murray
- In the present condition
- "A Gifted __"
- "Not __ Stranger"; Frank Sinatra movie
- Ultimate degree
- Comment from Homer
- Tumor suffix

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



Find the seven differences between the two pictures.

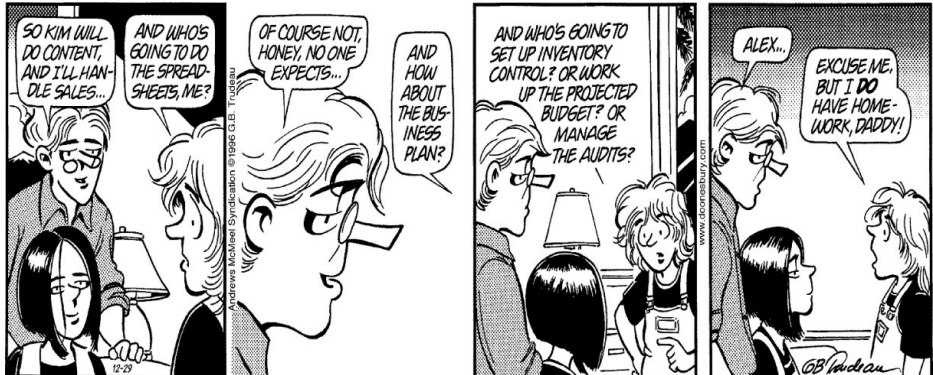
ANSWER:



Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



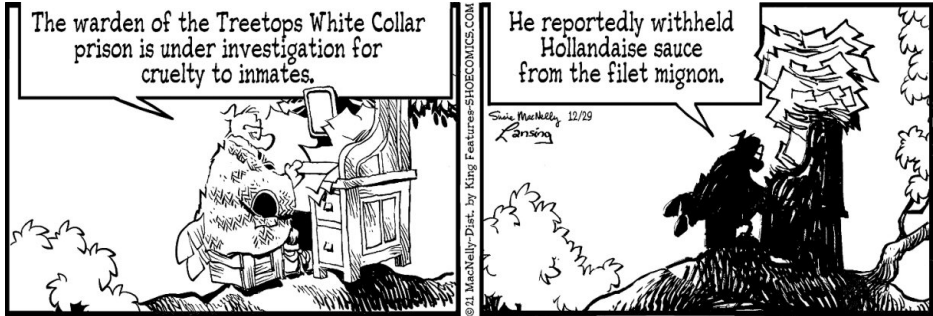
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



Garfield By Jim Davis



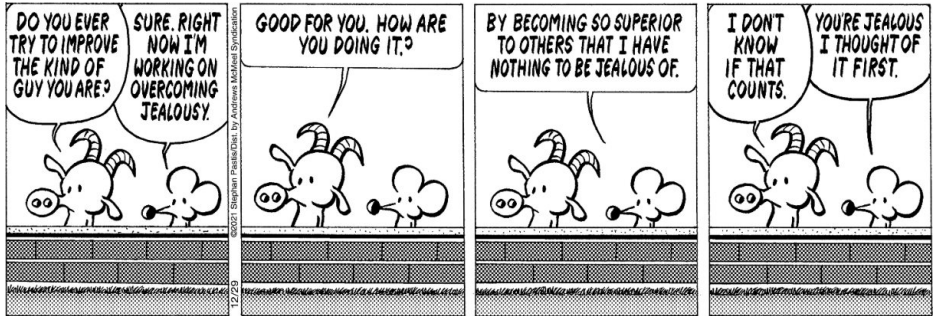
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



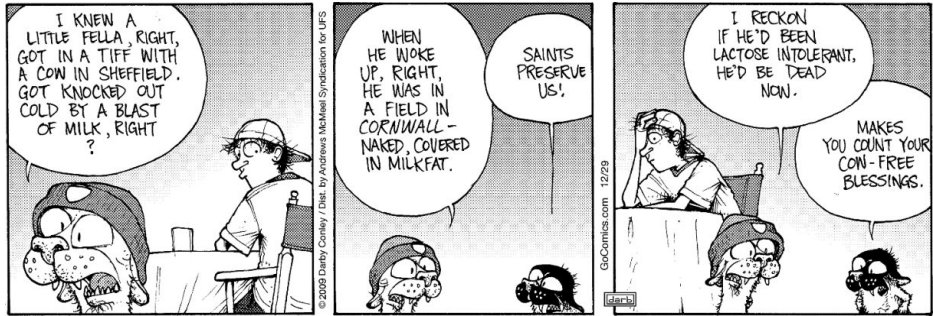
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



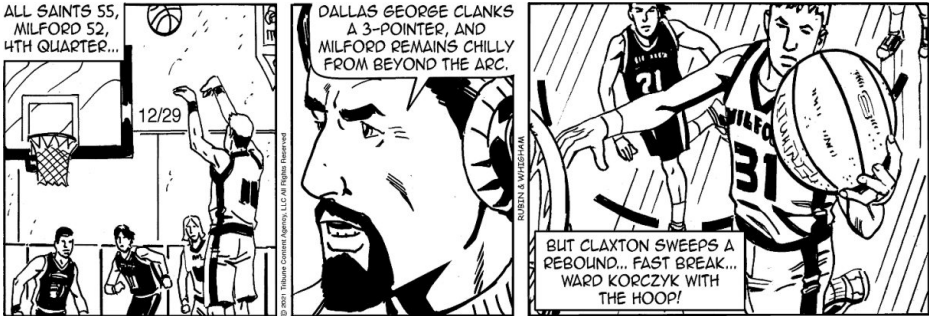
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Dilbert By Scott Adams



Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



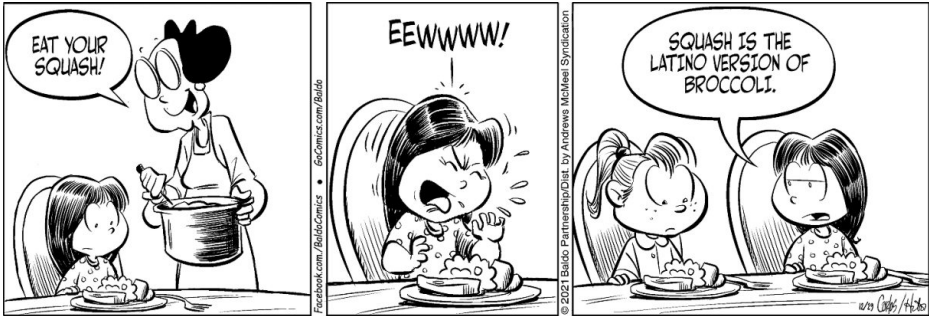
Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



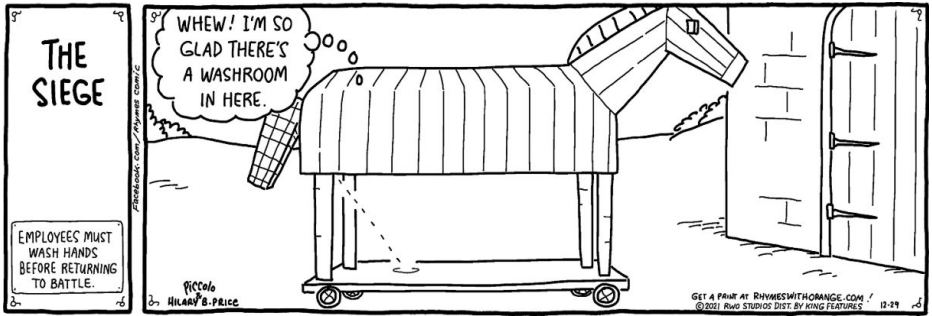
Lio By Mark Tatulli



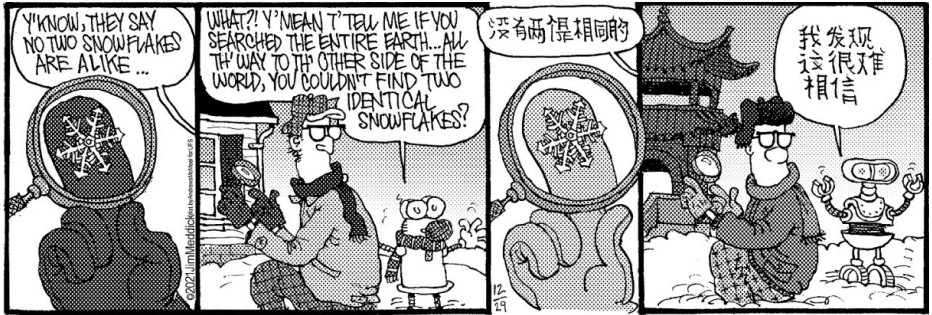
Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



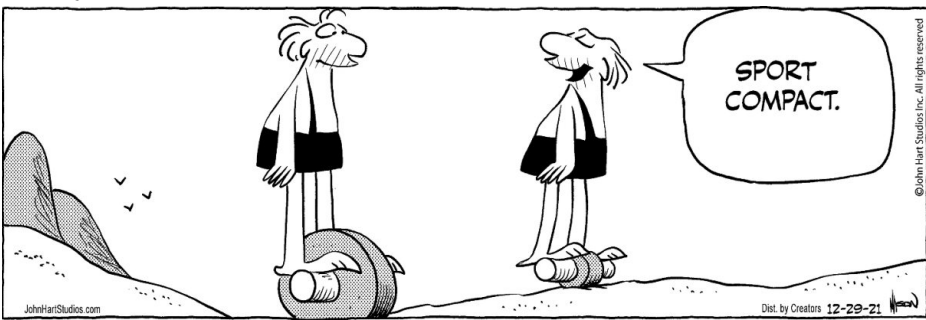
Monty By Jim Meddick



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



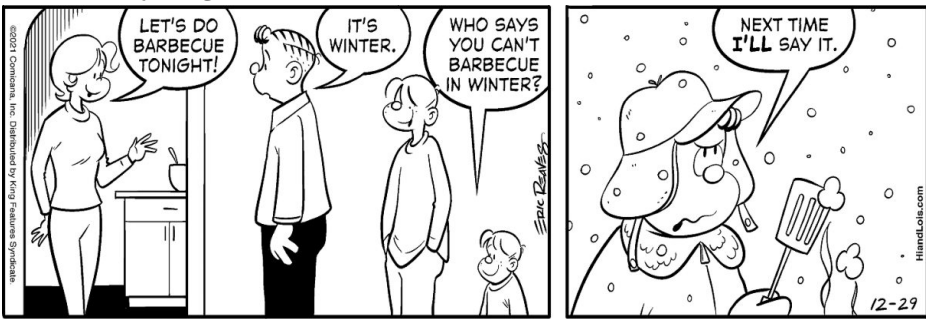
B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



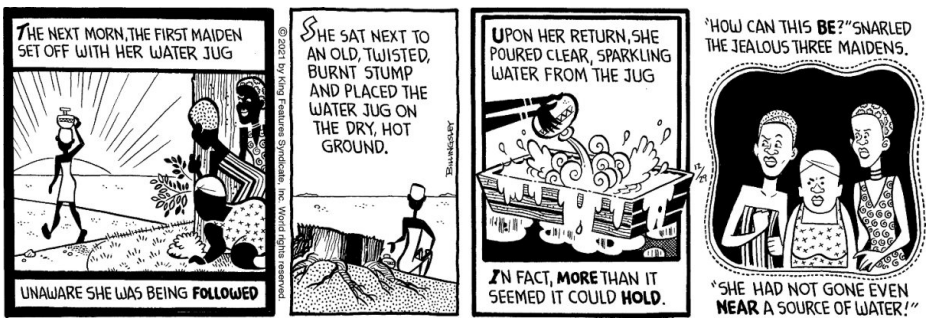
Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



Curtis By Ray Billingsley



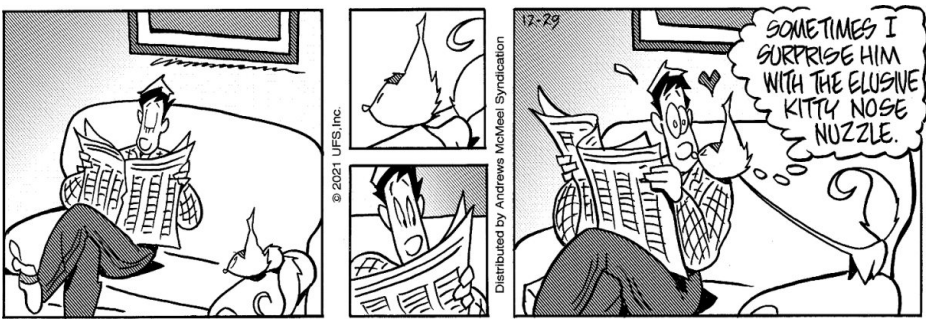
Pickles By Brian Crane



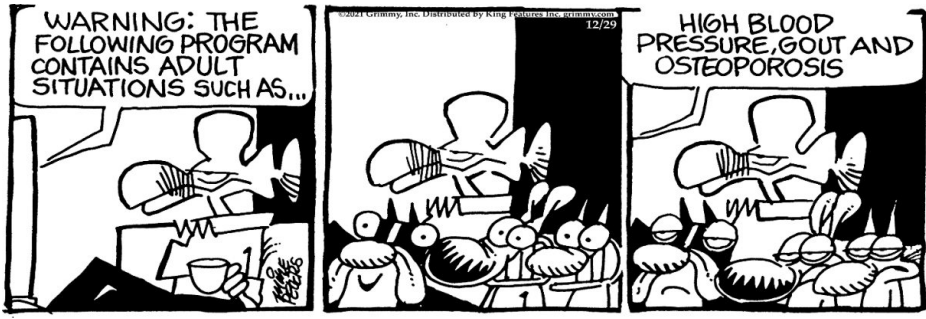
Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

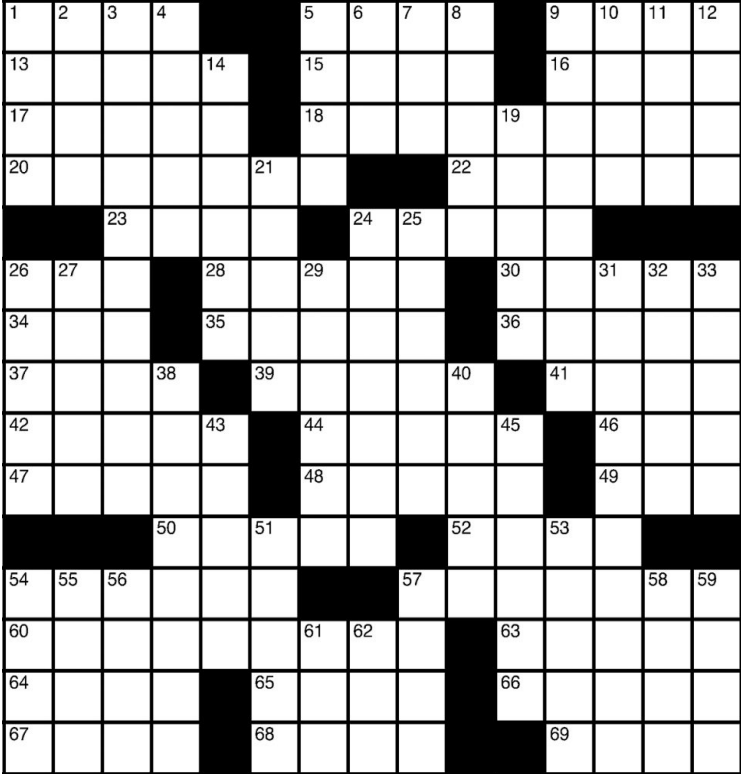
Across

- 1 Hula swivelers
5 Knife in the cooler?
9 Jones, so to speak
13 Boys Town is a suburb of it
15 Stiff wind?
16 Linger in the bath
17 Vatican-related
18 Newsy snippet
20 Half of an Arnold Palmer
22 Loads
23 15-Across piece
24 Madagascar mammal
26 It was deorbited in 2001
28 Exacting standard
30 An arm and a leg
34 What turns pets into poets?
35 Uses the overhead bin for
36 Turn aside
37 Depressed area
39 Bar mitzvah dances
41 Gulf States ruler
42 Holmes who played Jackie Kennedy in two TV miniseries
44 "You ___ be kidding!"
46 Dedicated lines
47 Peachy keen
48 Goofs off
49 DVR button
50 Bounced, in a bad way
52 Best Play, e.g.
54 32-Down of July '81
57 Used a bit, maybe

Down

- 1 Kachina doll carver
2 Apple product since 1998
3 *Delivery job not as common as it once was
4 Beach umbrella benefit
5 McGwire rival
6 Network with Comedy and Family channels
7 Letters for debtors
8 Jellyfish defense
9 *Computer storage device
10 Churn
11 Total ticket sales
12 Squeaks (by)
14 Changes
19 Midwife co-worker
21 Gloria's mom in '70s TV
24 Underhanded approach, and a hint to the answers to starred clues
25 Like knockoffs
26 Costume ball sights
27 Wedding day acquisition
29 Search for, for many

- 31 *Nostalgic locale
32 Wedding day VIP
33 Scatter
38 *Solar system's home
40 Take the wheel
43 Omit in speech
45 Birthplace of St. Francis
51 Word with pool or wave
53 Pay, with "down"
54 Genie's digs
55 Disappearing Asian sea
56 Musician's mailing
57 Ball stars
58 Bad doings
59 Like an investigative dive
61 Lode load
62 Badger



By Debbie Ellerin Tribune Content Agency 12/29/21

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

- ♠ Q 6 5 3 2
♥ K 8
♦ K J 7 6
♣ A 8

WEST

- ♠ A K J 10
♥ 7 5 3
♦ 9 5 4 3
♣ 7 4

EAST

- ♠ 9 8
♥ 10 9 4 2
♦ A Q 2
♣ 9 6 3 2

SOUTH

- ♠ 7 4
♥ A Q J 6
♦ 10 8
♣ K Q J 10 5

The bidding:

- South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Opening lead — jack of spades.

Psychological warfare

It might not be cricket, but an accomplished defender spends a good deal of time trying to convince declarer that he is subject to a danger that actually does not exist.

Here is a classic example of the art of deception. South got to three notrump as shown, and West (Dorothy Hayden) led the jack of spades, even though North had bid that suit.

Declarer cannot be blamed for playing low from dummy, since East might well have held the singleton king or ace, or possibly the A-K alone.

Covering the jack with the queen in each of these cases could easily have proven fatal.

After the jack held, Hayden blithely continued with the ten at trick two! South was now afraid that East had started with either the doubleton A-8 or K-8 of spades.

In that case, covering with the queen would cost the contract if West had the ace of diamonds as an entry.

So, rightly or not, declarer ducked the ten also. Hayden then cashed the A-K of spades as South's face reddened perceptibly. On the last two spades, East discarded the deuce of hearts and deuce of clubs, suggesting a diamond lead. So Hayden shifted to a diamond, and the contract went down two.

Obviously, had South realized what Hayden was up to, he would have played dummy's queen on either the first or second spade lead. Declarer would then have finished with 10 tricks instead of the seven he actually scored. In all fairness, though, it must be said that it's much easier to play a hand with all 52 cards in view instead of just 26.

Tomorrow: Trump management.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NUEOC

LIHWE

ALSDIN

RNLAMO

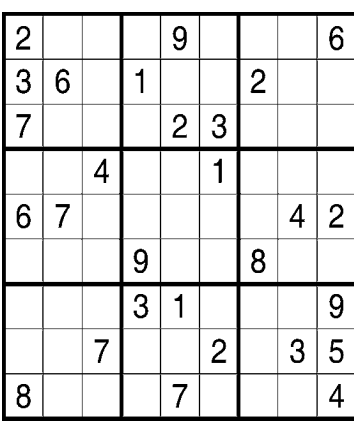
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Print answer here: " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: USHER DROOP BANTER EXCITE

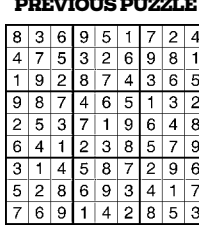
Answer: They wanted to put George Foreman's name on a grill, so they thought — OUTSIDE THE BOX

TODAY'S SUDOKU



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ZIPPER



School safety fears spark more volunteers

Parents step up to ‘make a positive difference’ for kids

By Anna Maria Della Costa
The Charlotte Observer

HUNTERSVILLE, N.C. — They volunteer in shifts a few times a week. They move kids along in the hallways; make sure bathrooms are clear during and after transitions.

They’re a set of ears if a student is having a rough day. A buddy if a kid needs a fist bump.

And in Tramaine Smith’s case, a car salesman at Town and Country Ford, a dad who’s fed up with bellyachers on the sidelines.

“It’s not acceptable to be sitting at home and complaining,” said Smith, whose kids attend Hopewell High School. “I decided, I’m going to do something — to get the call and make a difference.”

Dozens of other parents in Huntersville — most with kids who attend Hopewell High — have stepped up and into the school, where in early November two guns were found after a fight on campus that resulted in police detaining five students.

Days before the incident, Hopewell High had already planned to launch Titan Dads and Moms on Mission, a volunteer program principal Tracey Pickard decided her staff and teachers needed to get the community involved in her school.

“Maybe you’re sitting down and listening to a student who’s going through a hard time and you can help him/her regroup, get back on track,” Pickard said. “Maybe you’re reminding a student to wear his/her mask. You’re here to make a positive difference.”

During a town hall meeting last month after the



David Rourke, a director of training for Quality Behavioral Solutions to Complex Behavior Challenges, or QBS, said having parents around a high school campus sets a different tone for students. **WILL & DENI MCINTYRE**

two guns were found on their campus, students at Hopewell High demanded more transparency and communication from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Luke Settlemyer, a senior at Hopewell, said everyone must work together to “totally eliminate this behavior.”

Hopewell High is far from the only school in the district with highly-publicized instances of fights, weapons and other safety problems in the first half of the school year.

Recently, four incidents of violence — two involving found guns and another pepper spray used as a weapon — occurred in the district’s schools.

While Superintendent Earnest Winston said that schools need an all-hands-on-deck approach to safety and rattled off a list of measures the district is taking, including doubling

random safety screenings and creating a reporting tool for students, Hopewell parents say they are what their school needs.

“Get involved, be an influence,” said Dan Scullion, a territory manager for the Simpson Strong-Tie Company with a son who attends Hopewell. “Walk around the halls and show these kids you care.”

‘We’re being moms’

Pickard, who’s in her fourth year as principal of the school with more than 1,800 students, told the Observer that although in its infancy, Titan Dads and Moms on Mission already is making an impact.

“Having the dads and moms in the halls has relaxed the staff,” she said. “You can feel it. They’re extra role-models.”

David Rourke, a director of training for Quality Behavioral Solutions to

Complex Behavior Challenges, or QBS, said having parents around a high school campus sets a different tone for students.

“When there’s tension brewing, groups of kids getting ready to fight — when parents are around it feels different than having a teacher around,” Rourke told the Observer. QBS trains teachers and educators in school districts across the country.

“As parents you’re talking with students, checking in with them, encouraging them,” he said.

On any given day at Hopewell High, the dads and moms — there are upward of 60 who had signed up as of the week before Thanksgiving — walk the halls or station themselves in an area.

The shifts are roughly two hours, or a little longer, and four different time slots are available. The first shift

begins at 6:45 a.m. The last shift lasts until 3 p.m.

Dads and moms escort students to bathrooms, make sure students take off hoods, and sometimes, are just a presence.

“We’re being moms,” parent Abbey Ritter said. “We’re here to help support all the kids and their emotions.”

Ritter and Scullion, who was on his first shift when the Observer visited the school, said the hallways were peaceful.

“We’re an extension of the faculty,” Scullion said. “We’re coming in for positive reinforcement.”

‘It takes a community’

More than 90 weapons, including eight guns, were found on CMS campuses between Aug. 25 and Oct. 20, according to district data. Fights and guns have marred the 2021-22 school year in CMS.

The district isn’t alone. In a recent survey by the Education Advisory Board, 81% of school administrators indicated the frequency of disruptive behaviors in their schools has increased during the past three years, and 71% of teachers responded the same way.

Teachers also estimated they lose an average of 144 minutes of instructional time per week (14.5 school days per year) due to behavioral disruptions in the classroom.

“I see a great need for community involvement,” Smith said. “Not just here. Everywhere. It takes a community to raise a child.”

Winston, in a recent letter to CMS families, said clear backpacks have been ordered for high schools, but delivery is delayed until February. He also said officials are contacting screening equipment manufacturers about metal detectors and wands.

Lisa Mangum, the chief of police for the CMS Police, said Charlotte-Mecklenburg Academy and Turning Point Academy already utilize metal detectors.

Mangum said the Safety Screening Team utilizes two portable metal detectors during the screenings, and hand wands are utilized during screening processes at high school football games.

Rourke said parents have always played a role in schools, particularly in elementary schools with extra help in classrooms. But there’s a movement afoot like the one at Hopewell High where parents are getting more involved during the school day.

“(It’s) brewing,” Rourke said of the idea of parents and other community members signing up to be extra pairs of eyes and ears in school hallways. “It’s a kind of an intervention, a cooling down of our schools.”

START PLANNING YOUR NEXT GETAWAY

TRIBUNE

PUBLISHING

THE BALTIMORE SUN

Chicago Tribune

Daily Press

Hartford Courant

THE MORNING CALL

Orlando Sentinel

SunSentinel

The Virginian-Pilot

In Print. Online.

Look For The Travel Section In Your Sunday Publication

Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM / SPORTS

UConn Women's Basketball

Another game canceled — this time due to UConn COVID-19 issues

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

The UConn women's basketball team has now had its second game back from the holiday break canceled due to COVID-19 issues — this time, ones within the Huskies' program.

UConn announced Tuesday that its Friday game at DePaul will be canceled and that the league will attempt to reschedule it at a later date. Earlier in the week, UConn's home game versus Marquette, which was supposed to be Wednesday, was canceled due to COVID-19 issues in the Golden Eagles' program. Four of 11 Big East teams have had to cancel games the past week due to

Turn to UConn, Page 4



KK Arnold became the first class of 2023 player to commit to the UConn Huskies. W7 PRODUCTIONS LIVE STREAM

UConn Women's Basketball

Who's got next?

What will the post-Bueckers era look like for UConn? Most likely it will be new commit KK Arnold.

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

UConn women's basketball fans don't need to worry about what the post-Paige Bueckers era in Storrs will look like *quite* yet. In the meantime, coach Geno Auriemma has found the player who's poised to take the reins once Bueckers departs for the next level.

Kamorea "KK" Arnold, a 5-foot-10 point guard from Germantown, Wisconsin, and the No. 8 recruit of the class of 2023 per ESPNW, unofficially became the newest Husky when she verbally committed to UConn in late November.

"She's one of the best point guards in the country, that is no secret," said Shane Lafin of Premier Basketball, the scouting service behind ESPNW's recruiting rankings. For Arnold, committing to UConn was

more than the fulfillment of a childhood dream. She grew up idolizing UConn and Minnesota Lynx great Maya Moore and many of Auriemma's legendary guards. In choosing UConn, Arnold picked the program she believes will help her become the best version of herself.

"I'm a very competitive person," Arnold told The Courant. "I want to be the best and then compete against the best. So I thought that's a great place for me."

Arnold is UConn's first commitment from the class of 2023. She announced her decision shortly after class of 2022 recruits Ayanna Patterson and Isuneh "Ice" Brady signed their letters of intent to play in Storrs.

Arnold's commitment offers a glimpse at what the Huskies' backcourt could look like in 2023 and beyond. If star guards Azzi

Turn to Arnold, Page 4

JOHN MADDEN 1936-2021



John Madden, head coach of the Oakland Raiders walking off the field with offensive guard Gene Upshaw #63 holding up a sign "We're No. 1#" behind him after the Raiders beat the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl XI on January 9, 1977 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. The Raiders

'He was football'

Hall of Fame coach and broadcaster dies at 85 just days after premiere of 'All Madden'

By John Dubow
Associated Press

John Madden, the Hall of Fame coach turned broadcaster whose exuberant calls combined with simple explanations provided a weekly soundtrack to NFL games for three decades, died Tuesday morning, the league said. He was 85.

The NFL said he died unexpectedly and did not detail a cause. His passing came just days after the premiere of a Fox network documentary on his career called "All Madden" appeared on Christmas Day.

Madden gained fame in a decade-long stint as the coach of the renegade Oakland Raiders, making it to seven AFC title games and winning the Super Bowl following the 1976 season. He compiled a 103-32-7 regular-season record, and his .759 winning percentage is the best among NFL coaches with more than 100 games.

But it was his work after prematurely retiring as coach at age 42 that made Madden truly a household name. He educated a football nation with his use of the telestrator on broadcasts; entertained millions with his interjections of "Boom!"



Pat Summerall (left) and John Madden sit in the broadcast booth together for the last time at Super Bowl XXXVI at the Louisiana Superdome in 2002. GETTY FILE

and "Doink!" throughout games; was an omnipresent pitchman selling restaurants, hardware stores and beer; became the face of "Madden NFL Football," one of the most successful sports video games of all-time; and was a best-selling author.

Most of all, he was the preeminent television sports analyst for most of his three decades calling games, winning an unprec-

edented 16 Emmy Awards for outstanding sports analyst/personality, and covering 11 Super Bowls for four networks from 1979-2009.

"People always ask, are you a coach or a broadcaster or a video game guy?" he said when was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. "I'm a coach, always been a coach."

He started his broadcasting career at CBS after leaving coaching in great part because of his fear of flying. He and Pat Summerall became the network's top announcing duo. Madden then helped give Fox credibility as a major network when he moved there in 1994, and went on to call prime-time games at ABC and NBC before retiring following Pittsburgh's thrilling 27-23 win over Arizona in the 2009 Super Bowl.

"I am not aware of anyone who has made a more meaningful impact on the National Football League than John Madden, and I know of no one who loved the game more," Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said in a statement.

Burly and a little unkempt, Madden earned a place in America's heart with

Turn to Madden, Page 3

UConn Football

Huskies add another QB with Penn St. transfer Roberson

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

New UConn football coach Jim Mora said his staff would be "aggressive" in upgrading the quarterback position. On Tuesday, the Huskies grabbed another quarterback from the NCAA's transfer portal.

Ta'Quan Roberson, a former New Jersey high school star, is transferring from Penn State to UConn, he announced via Twitter.

Roberson completed 11 of 29 passes during his career with the Nittany Lions. He played in four games this season, including going 7-for-21 for 34 yards with two interceptions against Iowa when starter Sean Clifford was injured in the first half. He did not play after that game and freshman Christian Veilleux ascended to the team's No. 2 quarterback spot.

Roberson entered the transfer portal on Dec. 13 with three seasons of eligibility remaining.

"Committed. Let's work," Roberson tweeted, to which Mora responded, "Welcome to the brotherhood."

Roberson is considered a dual-threat quarterback. The 5-foot-11, 195-pounder from Orange, New Jersey, led DePaul Catholic to a state title in 2018 as a senior. He redshirted his 2019 freshman season at Penn State and was the offensive player of the year on Penn State's developmental squad.

He appeared in one game in 2020 and was an Academic All-Big Ten selection.

Mora has two quarterbacks returning from last season's 1-11 team, Steven Krajewski and Tyler Phommachanh. Phommachanh is recovering after tearing his ACL and LCL in his left knee in October. Earlier this month, Mora landed Cale Millen, a former Oregon QB and son of former NFL quarterback Hugh Millen, as a transfer from Northern Arizona.

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com



Quarterback Ta'Quan Roberson is transferring from Penn State, where he played briefly last season, to UConn and new coach Jim Mora. BARRY REEGER/AP

Did you know?

According to data, 30 percent of all distracted driving occurs at speeds over 50 miles per hour.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

Patriots: Jaguars, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Giants: at Bears, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Jets: Buccaneers, Sunday, 1 p.m.
UConn MBB: Butler (XL), Saturday, 4 p.m.; at Seton Hall, Jan. 8, noon; St. John's (Gampel), Jan. 12, 8:30 p.m.
UConn WBB: at Georgetown, Jan. 5, 7 p.m.; at Villanova, Jan. 7, 7 p.m.; Creighton, Jan. 9, 1 p.m.
Celtics: Clippers, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Suns, Friday, 1 p.m.; Magic, Sunday, 6 p.m.
Knicks: at Pistons, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at Thunder, Friday, 8 p.m.; at Raptors, Sunday, 3:30 p.m.
Nets: 76ers, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Clippers, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Grizzlies, Monday, 7:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: at Harvard, Sunday, 7 p.m.; at Boston Coll., Jan. 8, 4 p.m.; Boston Univ., Jan. 14, 7 p.m.
Bruins: Sabres, Saturday, 1 p.m.; at Red Wings, Sunday, 1 p.m.; Devils, Jan. 4, 7 p.m.
Rangers: at Panthers, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at Lightning, Friday, 7 p.m.; Lightning, Sunday, 12:30 p.m.
Wolf Pack: at Bridgeport, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Providence, Friday, 3 p.m.; Rochester, Sunday, 3 p.m.

TV/RADIO BASKETBALL
3 p.m.: High Point at Michigan State. BIG10
5 p.m.: Nicholls State at Purdue. BIG10
5 p.m.: DePaul at Butler. FS1
7 p.m.: LSU at Auburn. ESPN2
7 p.m.: Seton Hall at Providence. FS1
7 p.m.: Cornell at Syracuse. YES
7 p.m.: New York Knicks at Detroit Pistons. (Live), MSG
7:30 p.m.: Los Angeles Clippers at Boston Celtics. (Live), NBCSB
8 p.m.: Lakers at Grizzlies. NBATV
9 p.m.: Tennessee at Alabama. ESPN2
9 p.m.: NC State at Miami. ESPN
NCAA FOOTBALL
2:15 p.m.: Maryland vs. Virginia Tech. ESPN
5:45 p.m.: Clemson vs. Iowa State. ESPN
9:15 p.m.: Oregon vs. Oklahoma. ESPN
HOCKEY
7 p.m.: New York Rangers at Florida Panthers. (Live), MSG2
7 p.m.: Hartford Wolf Pack at Bridgeport Islanders. (Live), Radio: 1410
10 p.m.: Flyers at Kraken. NBCSP
SOCCER
3 p.m.: Premier League Brentford vs. Manchester City. NBCSN

CELTICS LATE MONDAY

Celtics all agree loss to Timberwolves ‘one of worst of year’

By Adam Himmelsbach
Boston Globe

MINNEAPOLIS — The Celtics have rarely been in lockstep during this confounding season. But after their latest stumble, a 108-103 loss against a Timberwolves team led by a two-way contract player and a veteran who arrived in Minnesota just hours before tipoff, the Celtics at least found common ground in one area.

“I think that was probably one of the worst losses of the season, for sure,” forward Jaylen Brown said.

“One of the worst losses of the year,” coach Ime Udoka said.

“Right now,” Al Horford said, “this is who we are.”

The recent skid has frustrated the Celtics and their fan base, but prior to Monday there was at least a good explanation. Boston’s roster has been ravaged by COVID-19 protocols and injuries, leaving Udoka

unsure where he could turn when things went sour.

They remained considerably shorthanded in this game, with Jayson Tatum, Marcus Smart, Dennis Schröder, and Josh Richardson all out. But Minnesota’s lineup was even more ravaged, with just one regular starter available and six of its top eight scorers sidelined.

The Timberwolves shoved their misfortune aside and received spirited efforts from players who never dreamed of getting chances such as this one. The Celtics coughed up an 11-point late-third-quarter lead and played the final 16 minutes as if the game did not count, even though the standings make it quite clear that it did.

“To come out and get carved up like we did tonight,” Udoka said, “was embarrassing.”

After this latest low point in a season filled with them, Boston

(16-18) has upcoming games looming against the Clippers and Suns. Any real hope of salvaging this year appears to be slipping away by the day.

Udoka said his team showed a lack of discipline as it crumbled down the stretch. Players closed out on shooters who could not really shoot, then watched them blow by for dunks and layups. Off-ball screens resulted in chaos and confusion, with Timberwolves receiving open lanes to do as they pleased.

He was most puzzled by the fact that Boston’s off-ball defense has generally been strong this season. The team spent most of the past two days focusing on fixing what had gone wrong in Saturday’s loss to the Bucks, and this was not really on the list.

“So, it’s like you’re at times trying to plug up the dam every night in a different hole with something,” Udoka said. “We’re really good at

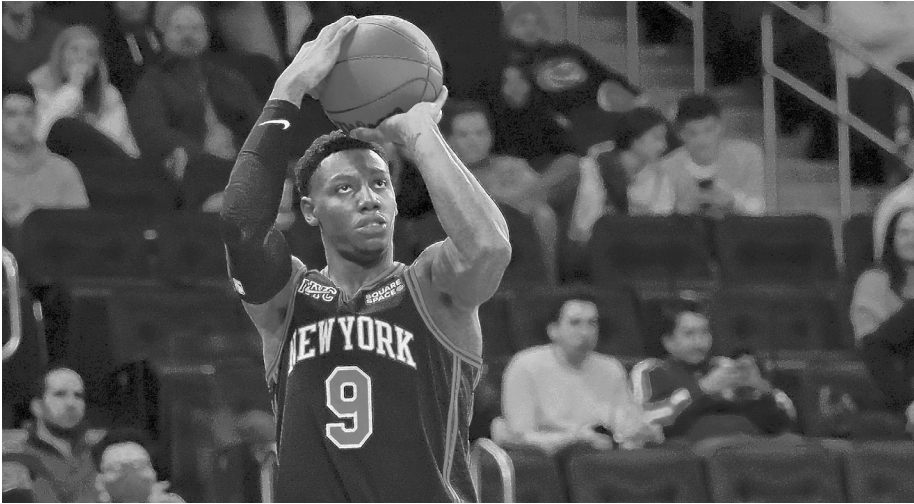
one thing, and then something else creeps up on us.”

Brown had 26 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Celtics, but made 8 of 24 shots and missed five free throws. It was his first game this season without Tatum at his side, and afterward he was furious he had not done more to lead his team.

“That was probably one of my worst games of the season as well,” Brown said. “My team needed me to make plays and step up and I turned the ball over too much, I missed easy shots, easy reads, and we lost.”

The undermanned Timberwolves, meanwhile, provided a blueprint for how to thrive when there are plenty of reasons to fail. They gashed the Celtics with strong drives and cuts throughout their second-half surge, and held a 50-26 edge in points in the paint.

“A team that is as depleted as we are just out-hustled us late in the game,” Udoka said.



Knicks guard RJ Barrett shoots against the Hawks during the second half Saturday in New York. The Knicks won 101-87. ADAM HUNGER/AP

KNICKS

Team to face some opponents racked by COVID-19 protocols

By Steve Popper
Newsday

NEW YORK — Before boarding the flight to frigid Minnesota, the Knicks convened for practice at their Greenburgh training center Monday — one at a time.

The NBA’s rules on health and safety protocols limited them to one-on-one workout sessions, a player matched with a coach. But they boarded the flight with what amounts to a relatively healthy squad these days — missing only three players to the COVID-19 protocols. They departed with their opening night starting lineup intact.

Awaiting them are the Timberwolves, who have seven players on the COVID list, including Karl-Anthony Towns, D’Angelo Russell and Anthony Edwards. Two Timberwolves — Patrick Beverley and Josh Okogie — are back with the team, and Okogie returned to action in Minnesota’s 108-103 victory over the visiting Celtics on Monday ahead of the Knicks’ arrival on Tuesday.

The Knicks will continue on to Detroit, which has seven players sidelined by the protocols, and then visit the Oklahoma City Thunder — one of the few teams with no players sidelined by testing. They will finish the trip in Toronto, where the

Raptors put a team on the floor Saturday in Cleveland that was missing 10 players, including their top seven scorers.

NBA commissioner Adam Silver, speaking on ESPN last week, said there were no plans to pause the season. The league will push forward with teams stocking their rosters with 10-day hardship exception contracts.

“The rules are changing, the protocols are changing so fast,” Timberwolves coach Chris Finch told reporters. “For us to think that it’s going to be as it is now in three or four days’ time would probably be unrealistic. We’ll have to wait and see what that landscape looks like.”

The Knicks have begun to see their own missing pieces trickle back to the active list. With RJ Barrett and Quentin Grimes back in action on Christmas Day and Immanuel Quickley and Kevin Knox cleared from protocols and working their way back into playing shape, they are missing only three players to COVID protocols. Nerlens Noel and rookies Miles McBride and Jericho Sims remain out.

While the Knicks are trying to work their own pieces into place, they have been aided by the return to the lineup of Kemba Walker, winning two of their last three games. Walker has averaged 26.0 points, 8.3 rebounds, 7.0 assists and 1.0 turnover in 40:10 in the last four games.

NHL

Stricter Canadian rules complicate push through pandemic

By Stephen Whyno
Associated Press

Sixteen months after choosing Canada as the safest place to complete its season, the NHL now faces a series of hurdles north of the border that complicate its bid to power through the pandemic all over again.

The NFL and NBA can swiftly move to adopt shorter isolation periods for those who test positive for the coronavirus in accordance with new guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the two leagues also can consider not testing asymptomatic, vaccinated players.

The NHL with seven teams north of the border must balance stricter COVID-19 regulations set by Canadian federal and provincial authorities.

“We have always had the issue of differing rules in different jurisdictions, so it’s not a new challenge,” Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said in an email to Associated Press on Tuesday, hours before play resumed after an extended holiday break. “(We are) navigating choppy waters the best we can.”

The CDC recommendation to trim quarantine time from 10 to five days prompted an NHL review of its virus protocols. But there is little evidence Canada is ready to move like the U.S. toward looser rules as provinces clamp down on crowd sizes and impose additional restric-

tions.

“It’s not in the mind of the state or the population and especially not in the mind of the health field workers,” said University of Ottawa professor Gilles LeVasseur, who specializes in U.S.-Canada relations. “Right now it’s more, ‘Let’s protect, let’s secure and let’s close in and let’s do another confinement.’ ... There is not that mentality of saying that it’s part of us, it’s part of who we are and let’s live with it.”

That path in the U.S., even among other sports leagues, is causing some frustration among hockey players who would like to see the NHL relax some protocols, most notably reducing mandated absences from 10 days for those with COVID-19 symptoms.

“It seems like it’s always Canada that’s the reason that a lot of things don’t happen, so I don’t know if we’re going to be able to do that,” Tampa Bay Lightning forward and NHL Players Association representative Alex Killorn said. “But it seems reasonable that we would do that and implement it as soon as possible.”

Teammate Steven Stamkos on Monday said it was a fine line, while acknowledging discussion about testing less is happening around NHL locker rooms. Veteran executive Lou Lamoriello said Sunday the league and union are doing the best they can without being able to control Canadian federal and provincial rules.

PATRIOTS

McDaniels: ‘No concern’ of rookie wall for QB Jones

By Steve Hewitt
Boston Herald

Could Mac Jones be hitting a rookie wall? It’s fair to wonder as the Patriots quarterback ventures into uncharted territory.

Jones excelled during the team’s seven-game winning streak going into the bye week, though he didn’t have much of an impact on their Week 13 win over the Bills. But he’s certainly regressed over his last two games — the 14th and 15th games of his career. In the two losses since the bye, the quarterback’s numbers have dipped: two touchdowns to four interceptions and a 51.9 completion percentage, after throwing just two picks and posting a 63.9 completion mark over the winning streak.

In three years at Alabama, Mac Jones never played more than 13 games. But though the quarterback has never experienced a season this long and taxing, offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels isn’t buying the notion he’s hit a wall. To him, that would have happened a long time ago.

“He’s doing fine,” McDaniels said Tuesday. “No concern on that. Each rookie kind of handles that differently. There’s always a stretch during the course of the middle of the season that’s a little bit new to him, because when you count the preseason games, preseason work, starting in July, usually that happens somewhere towards the end of October, middle of November, somewhere in there. But he’s gotten through that. He understands what he needs to do. He does a great job with his regimen, takes care of his body, his preparation. He’s learned how to manage his time and what he needs to allocate it towards, and I think that’s a really important thing for a young player.”



Patriots quarterback Mac Jones talks with offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels during a timeout against the Texans during the second half Oct. 10 in Houston. JUSTIN REX/AP

McDaniels agreed that there are areas Jones obviously needs improvement in after he went 14-for-32 — the lowest completion percentage (43.8%) as a pro — for just 145 yards and two interceptions in Sunday’s loss to the Bills. But he didn’t pin it all on the rookie, noting that a successful passing game is a product of the unit, not just quarterback play.

“Every positive pass play requires a lot of good things to be done, and so when you look at a singular event like Sunday’s game, there are definitely a handful of things that I think that we could have done better at the quarterback position,” McDaniels said. “There were things where the protection wasn’t as good as we needed it to be and there were times when maybe we didn’t either read the coverage properly or get open with enough separation for us to be able to throw and catch the ball with the skill group.

“It’s always a team thing. I know everybody’s going to point to the quarterback’s statistics and say, ‘Oh, he had a subpar day.’ There’s definitely things that the quarterback can do better and will do better, but the passing game is a function of a lot of people doing their job well, and there’s no shortcut to that. We miss a blitz pickup and the quarterback throws the ball away, it’s an incomplete pass and he did the right thing. So, there’s a few situations like that that have come up.”

GIANTS

Giants join other NFL teams with unsettled QB situation

By Tom Rock
Newsday

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Mike Glennon will probably start at quarterback for the Giants on Sunday against the Bears.

It wasn’t too long ago that Glennon was seen as the future for the Bears, which serves as a reminder of one the NFL’s stark realities to both teams playing in this contest: It can be hard to find the right guy for the most important position on the team.

The Giants and their fans may have forgotten that after they were spoiled by a decade and a half of Eli Manning during which they won two Super Bowls and were, until the final few years, one of the league’s consistent contenders. Giant superiority at quarterback goes beyond Manning, though. When Jake Fromm took the field on Sunday it was the first time since 1992 that the team had three different starting quarterbacks in the same season.

But now they are like just about half the league or more, a have-not organization in search of a quarterback who can shepherd them to routine postseason appearances and end their skid of unacceptable results.

Maybe Daniel Jones, if he can come back from his neck sprain and get some help up front with a rebuilt offensive line, can be that player for them, but that’s far from a sure bet. Glennon, who has started three games and came in to try to mop up the mess created when Jake Fromm started in Philadelphia on Sunday, certainly doesn’t seem to be that player either.

In 2017, though, the Bears took a shot on Glennon being that guy for them. Since then, Glennon has been the Kevin Bacon of

failed quarterback experiments with only a few degrees of separation between him and some of the league’s wildest swings at finding the gem that can set a franchise on the proper setting for years.

That offseason the Bears parted ways with Jay Cutler (who wasn’t that guy) and drafted Mitchell Trubisky (who also wasn’t). In between they signed Glennon to a three-year, \$45 million free agency contract. Glennon was the team’s opening day starter, but he was cut the following offseason.

Before he arrived in Chicago, Glennon was the backup in Tampa Bay. He was expendable to the Bucs in 2017 because they thought they had the answer at quarterback in Jameis Winston (they did not). After his one season with the Bears, Glennon played for the Cardinals as the backup behind a rookie quarterback Arizona thought would be their future (Josh Rosen, another no). Then it was on to Oakland in 2019 where he played behind Derek Carr (we’ll see what his verdict winds up being) before Jacksonville in 2020 where he toggled playing time with Gardner Minshew (not the answer for the Jaguars, currently the backup for the Eagles) and Jake Luton (not the answer for anyone).

This season he came to the Giants to be Jones’ backup. They thought he would be an upgrade to Colt McCoy, who held that job last season. Glennon is 0-3 as a starter for the Giants and they have lost all five games in which he has appeared. McCoy, by the way, is 2-1 this year as a backup starter for the playoff-bound Cardinals, who seem to have found their guy in Kyler Murray.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Brooklyn	23	9	.719	—
Philadelphia	17	16	.515	6½
Boston	16	18	.471	8
Toronto	14	16	.467	8
New York	15	18	.455	8½

SOUTHEAST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Miami	21	13	.618	—
Washington	17	16	.515	3½
Charlotte	18	17	.514	3½
Atlanta	15	18	.455	5½
Orlando	7	27	.206	14

CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Chicago	21	10	.677	—
Milwaukee	22	13	.629	1
Cleveland	20	13	.606	2
Indiana	14	20	.412	8½
Detroit	5	27	.156	16½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Memphis	21	14	.600	—
Dallas	16	17	.485	4
San Antonio	14	19	.424	6
New Orleans	12	22	.353	8½
Houston	10	24	.294	10½

NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Utah	24	9	.727	—
Denver	16	16	.500	7½
Minnesota	16	17	.485	8
Portland	13	20	.394	11
Oklahoma City	12	20	.375	11½

PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Golden State	27	6	.818	—
Phoenix	26	7	.788	1
L.A. Clippers	17	17	.500	10½
L.A. Lakers	16	18	.471	11½
Sacramento	13	21	.382	14½

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Milwaukee at Orlando, late
Philadelphia at Toronto, late
Washington at Miami, late
Cleveland at New Orleans, late
L.A. Lakers at Houston, late
New York at Minnesota, late
Denver at Golden State, late
Oklahoma City at Sacramento, late

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
New York at Indiana, 7p.m.
New York at Detroit, 7p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Boston, 7:30p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 8p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Memphis, 8p.m.
Miami at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
Oklahoma City at Phoenix, 9p.m.
Utah at Portland, 10p.m.
Dallas at Sacramento, 10:30p.m.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Charlotte 123, Houston 99
Chicago 130, Atlanta 118
Minnesota 108, Boston 103
Utah 110, San Antonio 104
Memphis 114, Phoenix 113
Dallas 132, Portland 117
Brooklyn 124, L.A. Clippers 108

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE									
EAST		W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA		
Buffalo	9	6	0	0	.600	427	264		
New England	9	6	0	0	.600	388	260		
Miami	8	7	0	0	.533	305	315		
e-N.Y. Jets	4	11	0	0	.267	276	449		
SOUTH		W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA		
Tennessee	10	5	0	0	.667	357	326		
Indianapolis	9	6	0	0	.600	420	316		
e-Houston	4	11	0	0	.267	248	401		
e-Jacksonville	2	13	0	0	.133	217	396		
NORTH		W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA		
Cincinnati	9	6	0	0	.600	410	324		
Baltimore	8	7	0	0	.533	355	356		
Pittsburgh	7	7	1	0	.500	301	371		
Cleveland	7	8	0	0	.467	314	329		
WEST		W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA		
y-Kansas City	11	4	0	0	.733	421	306		
L.A. Chargers	8	7	0	0	.533	408	411		
Las Vegas	8	7	0	0	.533	316	387		
Denver	7	8	0	0	.467	298	260		

NATIONAL CONFERENCE							
EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	
y-Dallas	11	4	0	0	.733	457	307
Philadelphia	8	7	0	0	.533	398	318
Washington	6	9	0	0	.400	297	407
e-N.Y. Giants	4	11	0	0	.267	248	365
SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	
y-Tampa Bay	11	4	0	0	.733	442	312
Atlanta	7	8	0	0	.467	278	400
New Orleans	7	8	0	0	.467	316	305
e-Carolina	5	10	0	0	.333	277	345
NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	
y-Green Bay	12	3	0	0	.800	383	324
Minnesota	7	8	0	0	.467	384	372
e-Chicago	5	10	0	0	.333	265	373
e-Detroit	2	12	1	0	.167	259	386
WEST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	
x-L.A. Rams	11	4	0	0	.733	416	326
x-Arizona	10	5	0	0	.667	394	306
San Francisco	8	7	0	0	.533	377	334
e-Seattle	5	10	0	0	.333	306	307
e-eliminated from playoffs; x-clinched playoff spot; y-clinched division							

WEEK 17 SUNDAY'S GAMES
Atlanta at Buffalo, 1p.m.
Jacksonville at New England, 1p.m.
Kansas City at Cincinnati, 1p.m.
L.A. Rams at Baltimore, 1p.m.
Las Vegas at Indianapolis, 1p.m.
Miami at Tennessee, 1p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Chicago, 1p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 1p.m.
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Jets, 1p.m.
Denver at L.A. Chargers, 4:05p.m.
Houston at San Francisco, 4:05p.m.
Arizona at Dallas, 4:25p.m.
Carolina at New Orleans, 4:25p.m.
Detroit at Seattle, 4:25p.m.
Minnesota at Green Bay, 8:20p.m.
MONDAY'S GAME
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 8:15p.m.

LATE MONDAY: MIAMI 20, NEW ORLEANS 3
Miami 10 0 7 3 — 20
New Orleans 0 3 0 0 — 3
First Quarter
Mia: Needham 28interception return (Sanders kick), 10:25.
Mia: FG Sanders 48, 2:09.
Second Quarter
NO: FG Maher 38, 2:45.
Third Quarter
Mia: Waddle 1pass from Tagovailoa (Sanders kick), 5:10.
Fourth Quarter
Mia: FG Sanders 34, 12:05.

TEAM STATS		MIA	NO
First downs		16	10
Total net yards		259	164
Rushes-yards		30-86	23-83
Passing		173	81
Punt returns		3-9	3-27
Kickoff returns		1-23	1-26
Interceptions ret.		2-36	1-0
Comp-att-int		19-26-1	12-20-2
Sacked-yards lost		5-10	3-25
Punts		6-42-57	4-45-143
Fumbles-lost		1-0	0-0
Penalties-yards		7-65	7-62
Time of possession		33:56	26:04

RUSHING: Miami, D.Johnson 13-39, Lindsay 13-36, Gaskin 3-10, Tagovailoa 1-1. New Orleans, Kamara 13-52, Ingram 4-17, Jones 2-6, Book 3-6, Prentice 1-2.
PASSING: Miami, Tagovailoa 19-26-1-198. New Orleans, Book 12-20-2-135.
RECEIVING: Miami, Waddle 10-92, Smyth 3-31, Gaskin 3-22, Hollins 1-40, Lewis 1-37, Gaskin 1-6. New Orleans, Callaway 4-46, Humphrey 3-70, Wolf 2-8, Kamara 2-7, Stills 1-4.
MISSED FG: Miami, Sanders 59.

JOHN MADDEN'S RECORD WITH OAKLAND RAIDERS

Career head coaching numbers of broadcaster and Hall of Famer, who led Oakland to victory in the Super Bowl after the 1976 season.

YEAR	G	W	L	T	W%	W	L
1969	14	12	1	1	.923	1	1
1970	14	8	4	2	.667	1	1
1971	14	8	4	2	.667	1	1
1972	14	10	3	1	.750	0	1
1973	14	9	4	1	.679	1	1
1974	14	12	2	0	.857	1	1
1975	14	11	3	0	.786	1	1
1976	14	13	1	0	.929	3	0
1977	14	11	3	0	.786	1	1
1978	16	9	7	0	.563	1	9
TOT	142	103	32	7	.759	9	7

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Tampa Bay	31	21	6	4	46	103	84			
Toronto	30	20	8	2	42	98	76			
Florida	29	18	7	4	40	104	87			
Detroit	31	15	13	3	33	88	104			
Boston	26	14	10	2	30	71	69			
Buffalo	30	10	15	5	25	82	104			
Ottawa	28	9	17	2	20	79	101			
Montreal	32	7	21	4	18	71	114			
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Carolina	29	21	7	1	43	95	62			
Washington	31	18	6	7	43	108	81			
N.Y. Rangers	30	19	7	4	42	86	77			
Pittsburgh	30	17	8	5	39	91	76			
Columbus	28	14	13	1	29	91	95			
Philadelphia	29	12	12	5	29	77	95			
New Jersey	30	10	15	5	25	82	105			
N.Y. Islanders	26	8	12	6	22	57	77			

WESTERN CONFERENCE										
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Minnesota	30	19	9	2	40	112	92			
Nashville	30	19	10	1	39	89	79			
St. Louis	31	17	9	5	39	106	85			
Colorado	27	17	8	2	36	115	91			
Winnipeg	30	14	11	5	33	90	87			
Dallas	29	15	12	2	32	82	85			
Chicago	30	11	15	4	26	72	97			
Arizona	29	6	21	2	14	56	109			
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Vegas	32	20	12	0	40	114	98			
Anaheim	32	17	9	6	40	103	89			
Calgary	28	15	7	6	36	87	62			
Edmonton	29	18	11	0	36	101	90			
Los Angeles	30	14	11	5	33	80	79			
San Jose	30	15	14	1	31	78	85			
Vancouver	31	14	15	2	30	81	90			
Seattle	30	10	17	3	23	84	108			

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Tampa Bay 5, Montreal 4 (OT)
Arizona at San Jose, late
Vegas at Los Angeles, late
Columbus at Chicago, ppd

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
N.Y. Rangers at Florida, 7p.m.
Nashville at Washington, 7p.m.
New Jersey at Buffalo, 7p.m.
Edmonton at St. Louis, 8:30p.m.
Philadelphia at Seattle, 10p.m.
Vancouver at Anaheim, 10:30p.m.
Boston at Ottawa, ppd
Detroit at N.Y. Islanders, ppd
Pittsburgh at Toronto, ppd
Dallas at Colorado, ppd
Chicago at Winnipeg, ppd

SOCCER

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE							
CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Man City	19	15	2	2	50	12	47
Liverpool	19	12	5	2	50	16	41
Chelsea	19	12	5	2	42	13	41
Arsenal	19	11	2	6	32	23	35
West Ham	19	9	4	6	34	25	31
Tottenham	17	9	3	5	22	20	30
Man United	17	8	4	5	27	25	28
Wolverhampton	18	7	4	7	13	24	25
Crystal Palace	18	7	4	7	31	33	25
Leicester	19	8	6	27	27	23	23
Brighton	17	5	8	4	16	17	23
Aston Villa	18	7	1	10	24	28	22
Southampton	19	4	9	6	20	29	21
Brentford	17	5	5	7	21	24	21
Everton	17	5	4	8	21	29	21
Leeds	18	3	7	8	18	36	16
Watford	17	4	1	12	22	35	13
Burnley	15	1	8	6	14	21	11
Newcastle	19	1	8	10	19	42	11
Norwich	19	2	4	13	8	42	10
TUESDAY'S RESULTS							
Crystal Palace 3, Norwich 0							
Southampton 1, Tottenham 1							
Watford 1, West Ham 4							
Leicester 1, Liverpool 0							
Arsenal vs. Wolverhampton, ppd							
Leeds vs. Aston Villa, ppd							

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday: vs. Butler
(at XL Center), 4 p.m., FSI

UConn
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The Angels' Shohei Ohtani is greeted in the dugout after he hit a solo home run during the first inning against the Mariners on Oct. 3 in Seattle. **TED S. WARREN/AP**

AP MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

One of a kind: Ohtani captures annual honor

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Most of the time in professional sports, it's easy to think it's all been done before.

With so many finetuned athletes constantly pushing each other to the peak of human potential, we can experience unprecedented demonstrations of sporting brilliance every week of our lives. But it's truly rare to witness anything that isn't fundamentally just a better, more prolific version of something we've already seen.

That's why Shohei Ohtani's astonishing redefinition of modern baseball captured the world's attention so vividly in 2021 — and that's why the Los Angeles Angels' two-way superstar is the winner of Associated Press' Male Athlete of the Year award.

The unanimous American League MVP put together a season with no analogue in the past century of his sport. Almost no one had been an everyday two-way player for many decades — and nobody has been both one of baseball's top power hitters and one of its best starting pitchers since Babe Ruth starred at the plate and on the mound for the Boston Red Sox in 1919.

"He's doing something we

haven't seen in our lifetimes, but he's also doing it at the very highest level of hitting and pitching," Angels manager Joe Maddon said late in the regular season. "He's doing more than other players, but he's also doing it better than almost everybody else on that field, and those are the greatest players in the game, his contemporaries. He's playing their game, but he's also playing a different game."

Ohtani hit 46 homers and drove in 100 runs with a .965 OPS while playing in 126 games as the AL's best designated hitter, as evidenced by his Silver Slugger award. He finished third in the majors in homers after leading the sport for much of the season.

Ohtani also started 23 games on the mound, going 9-2 with a 3.18 ERA and 156 strikeouts over 130 ⅓ innings as the Angels' ace and one of the AL's top right-handers. He has a 100-mph fastball, but his splitter might be the best pitch in baseball, with movement that resembles a ball rolling off the edge of a table.

The 6-foot-4 star also was among the fastest baserunners in the majors while stealing 26 bases and scoring 103 runs. He even led the league with eight triples — and

he also played a little outfield when asked.

Any one of these achievements would be impressive for a 27-year-old hitting his prime in his fourth season since moving from Japan to the major leagues.

Doing it all at the same time is something that almost nobody who's currently alive had ever seen.

Ohtani kept baseball's historians and statheads metaphorically buried up to their eyes in dusty record books all summer as they dug into the early 20th century annals to identify the last players to accomplish the statistical superlatives Ohtani was currently blazing past.

Mike Trout, Ohtani's three-time AL MVP teammate, called Ohtani's season "nothing short of electric."

"At times, I felt like I was back in Little League," Trout added. "To watch a player throw eight innings, hit a home run, steal a base and then go play right field was incredible."

Fans across the world agreed: Despite his soft-spoken personality and single-minded focus on his sport, Ohtani has become an icon wherever baseball is played and a known figure even beyond the game's traditional borders.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Atlanta-area recruiting proves rich in top talent

By Aaron Beard
Associated Press

Bruce Pearl hasn't had to venture too far in recruiting top talent for his 12th-ranked Auburn men's basketball team. The same is true on the women's side for Dawn Staley and No. 1 South Carolina.

Sitting between their Southeastern Conference campuses — one state over, in each case — is an Atlanta market fertile with top-flight talent and future pro players. On the men's side, that includes recent one-and-done talents like Collin Sexton, 2020 No. 1 overall pick Anthony Edwards and Sharife Cooper, each of whom played for SEC schools before jumping to the NBA.

"Back in the day, if you were a great high school basketball player, you'd need to leave the region, you'd need to leave the SEC almost — unless it was to go to Kentucky or maybe Florida — if you wanted to be a pro and you wanted to win championships," said Pearl, whose Tigers are scheduled to host LSU on Wednesday night. "That's just not the case

anymore. Auburn is one of the other programs in the league where you can do both."

The Atlanta metro area includes 29 counties and has a population of more than 6 million to rank as the country's ninth-largest, according to the Metro Atlanta Chamber. It's located in the heart of the SEC's 14-team footprint, as well as being in the southern part of the 15-team Atlantic Coast Conference's reach.

That means a lot of talent spread across Atlanta and surrounding communities like Marietta, Powder Springs, Alpharetta, Mableton and Norcross, among others. High school programs are thriving and the area is a destination for summer basketball, all contributing factors in the recent boom in talent.

Pearl — who coached Cooper last year and has another top Atlanta-area recruit this year in rangy 6-foot-10 forward Jabari Smith — views Atlanta recruiting as a valuable tool to building a winner in the southeast. A key selling point for him is the ability for recruits to play less

than two hours away from home.

The same is true for Staley at a campus a little more than a three-hour drive from Atlanta. Her Gamecocks entered the season with the nation's top-ranked freshman class headlined by two of the nation's top four recruits in point guard Raven Johnson from Atlanta and forward Sania Feagin from Ellenwood, about 15 miles outside of Atlanta.

"It's a short ride for us," said Staley, whose Gamecocks visit Missouri on Thursday. "Most Georgia players seemingly want to leave Georgia, but not too far. So we're right on the cusp where you can get away from your family, they can come and visit you three hours away."

On the men's side, 247sports recruiting analyst Travis Branham said the Atlanta region has grown into one of the nation's top recruiting markets with places like Dallas-Fort Worth in Texas — where 2021 No. 1 overall draft pick Cade Cunningham came up before playing in Florida — California, New York and the Washington, D.C.-Virginia-Maryland "DMV" region.

Arnold

from Page 1

Fudd and Bueckers both stay at UConn for four years, Arnold would share the floor with Fudd for two seasons and Bueckers for one.

Through the first nine games of her junior season at Germantown High, Arnold is averaging 23.3 points per game on 52.6% shooting, as well as 8.7 rebounds, 8.7 assists and 3.9 steals per game. Though she has typically been more of an attack-the-basket player, she's steadily raised her 3-point field-goal percentage from 23.6% her first year on varsity to 30.3% as a sophomore and 34.9% so far this season.

Among her accolades as a sophomore, she was named the MaxPreps, Associated Press and Gatorade Wisconsin player of the year, and was a MaxPreps second-team All-America selection.

"She's a dynamic point guard. She has it all," Laffin said. "She is quick and fast, handles the ball, has shake, has the jumper out to the 3 and off the dribble, is fearless to the rack and plays well without the ball in her hands. She handles pressure and contact very well. Defensively, she is physical and competitive and is a strong on-ball defender."

As her numbers suggest, Arnold impacts the game beyond her offense as a committed defender and her team's leading rebounder despite being a point guard.

"She's willing to do everything involved with being successful in basketball, which makes the team that much better," said Matt Stuve, Arnold's coach at Germantown.

Arnold's ability to make those around her better, both on and off the court, separates her from the rest, according to Stuve.

"She's somebody who's a great teammate," Stuve said. "Obviously on the court, she finds you if you're open. We constantly tell kids 'run the floor, find open space, the ball is going to get to you' because she's got incredible court vision and she can play with a lot of different kinds of players. She's just going to make good basketball plays, good basketball decisions."

"Then off the court, she's just a great kid. She plays with a lot of joy. She just loves being involved with the game and everything surrounding the game, and I think that's the kind of person they're looking for."

Well before her commitment to UConn, Arnold had a decorated 2021 full of formative experiences. She guided her team to a state championship this past spring, where she said she learned that her leadership is "bigger than what I thought it could be." Then in August, playing with USA Basketball at the 2021 FIBA Americas U16 Championship, helped sharpen her basketball IQ.

Her visit to Storrs in the fall — one of the final schools she checked out — sealed the deal. She felt comfortable on campus and with the coaching staff and got a taste of how passionate UConn fans are when some passersby asked her to take a picture with them. Arnold previously knew Fudd from the Blue Star Basketball program, and is familiar with Bueckers from the Midwest high school/AAU circuit, but getting to

spend time with her other future teammates made her feel even more confident with her decision.

"It was natural, just talking to them," Arnold said. "It didn't feel forced or anything."

The fit appears to be a good one both ways. Stuve describes Arnold as someone who's constantly working to improve her game, embraces feedback and wants to be challenged and is humble, not one to go around talking about all the schools who recruited her. She's also the biggest cheerleader for her teammates, someone who celebrates others' success more than her own.

In other words, exactly what Auriemma tends to look for in players.

"He talks about how you've got to be a gym rat, which she is. You've got to be a kid where if it's an hour and a half of passing and ball-handling drills, you're excited about it, and that's exactly the kind of kid she is," Stuve said. "She's good in the classroom, so obviously they won't have to worry too much about that. And then her parents are wonderful people and that's important because you want supportive parents. And then just having the ability to play. There's a lot of layers there that they're looking for, and she checked all those boxes."

Arnold isn't looking to shy away from the day-in and day-out demanding expectations that defines UConn women's basketball. She expects the influence of her parents and three older siblings, who also played sports, will help ease that transition.

"Growing up in my household, that's all we knew," Arnold said. "[My siblings] taught me that at a young age, and then watching how they worked out, how hard they worked in their sport when they played, just built me up. Then having my mom and dad in my circle, teaching me work ethic before I enter college so I won't go in and be like 'oh, man, this is crazy.' I don't want to be one of those freshmen who's shocked. I want to be prepared going into my freshman year."

For the time being, Arnold gets to focus on fine-tuning her game and trying to get her team back to state. Regardless of what lays ahead for her, Stuve describes Arnold as a player who will bring joy and generosity each step of the way. Case in point: She included her teammates in her commitment announcement. They took the stage with her, held up a UConn flag behind her and enjoyed her special moment together.

"We've had a lot of high-level kids," Stuve said. "Sometimes what you find with high-level performers is they turn very inward because they're so focused on being a great player and playing at a high level. And you just don't see that with her."

"If she was the 14th or 15th kid on our team, her teammates would love playing with her just as much as they do because she's a UConn commit. It's not so much her basketball ability that endears her to her teammates, but just how she goes about living her life every day and the joy she lives with."

Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphilippou@courant.com

UConn

from Page 1

outbreaks.

Per Big East policy a conference game will be canceled if a team has fewer than seven scholarship players and one countable coach available.


UConn says "announcements about future UConn events will be made in the coming days." The Huskies' next scheduled game is Jan. 5 at Georgetown, but the Hoyas have also had issues and canceled games this week. After that they are supposed to take on Villanova on the road Jan. 7.

The news on the women's side comes one day after the UConn men announced the cancellation

of their game Tuesday at Xavier. Coach Dan Hurley was among the those who tested positive. The school previously announced that 100% of basketball athletes and 95% of student athletes overall were vaccinated for COVID-19, though a number for those who'd received the COVID-19 booster was not provided.

When they return to the court the Huskies will looking to avoid their first set of back-to-back losses since 1993. The Huskies fell to Louisville on Dec. 19 in the final game before break.

After a slew of injuries this month, leaving UConn with just eight healthy players, the Huskies were hoping to get back guards Azzi Fudd and Nika Muhl after the holiday.



Safety Tip of the Day

Is your baby ready for a highchair? Look for one that is sturdy with straps that go over the shoulders and hips and between the legs.

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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SPORTS SHORTS

Colts QB Wentz on COVID-19 list



Carson Wentz is expected to miss Sunday's key game against Las Vegas after the Indianapolis Colts placed their starting quarterback on the reserve/COVID-19 list Tuesday. It was not immediately clear whether Wentz (left) tested positive for the virus or was deemed a close contact to someone else who had tested positive. But Wentz is unvaccinated and NFL protocols require players who test positive to sit out 10 days. While the CDC changed its guidelines for those who are asymptomatic, recommending a five-day quarantine period and masking over the second five days, it's unclear if the NFL will change its requirements. The Tennessee Titans, who can clinch the AFC South with either a win or a Colts' loss, added two more in linebacker Jayon Brown and practice squad receiver Cody Hollister, who has played three of the past four games including one start. That brings the Titans' total to nine, not counting a 10th player out for the season on injured reserve. The timing couldn't be worse for the Colts, who can clinch one of the seven AFC playoff spots with a win over the Raiders.

Lightning's Point returns from injury



Tampa Bay Lightning star center Brayden Point will return to the lineup for Tuesday night's game against the Montréal Canadiens after missing 14 games with an upper-body injury. Lightning assistant coach Derek Lalonde made the announcement after the team's morning skate. Lalonde is filling in for coach Jon Cooper, who is in Covid-19 protocols. In addition to Cooper, goalies Andrei Vasilevskiy and Brian Elliott, defensemen Mikhail Sergachev and forward Anthony Cirelli are among six players in Covid-19 protocols. Point (above) was hurt Nov. 20 in a game against New Jersey when he crashed hard into the end boards during the third period. He favored his left arm and shoulder afterward but stayed in the game. After practice on Monday, Point said the injury turned out to be more than just a sore shoulder. Point led the NHL in goals (14) for the second consecutive year in last season's playoffs, helping Tampa Bay win back-to-back Stanley Cups. Maxime Lagace, recalled from Syracuse of the AHL, will start in goal. He is 7-8-1 with a 3.69 goals-against-average in 18 career NHL games.

US-Canada women's games off

The pandemic disrupted a pair of top events in international hockey Tuesday, with the two top women's teams in the world calling off their final pre-Olympic tune-up games and the defending champion U.S. men forfeiting a game at the world junior championship. Hockey Canada announced the final two rivalry series games against the U.S. were canceled because several players and staff on Canada's women's national team are in COVID-19 protocol. The U.S. and Canada were set to play Jan. 3 in Edmonton, Alberta, and Jan. 6 in nearby Red Deer. Canada had won four of the six exhibition games between the two rivals this fall and winter. USA Hockey director of women's national team programs Katie Million said the organization agreed with Hockey Canada that it was appropriate to cancel the games. Hours earlier, the U.S. was forced to forfeit its world junior game Tuesday against Switzerland after two players tested positive for the coronavirus. The tournament is also taking place in Edmonton and Red Deer. Two positive COVID-19 test results led to a mandated team quarantine, and the U.S. as a result was unable to play under tournament rules.

— Associated Press



Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh celebrates the team's 42-3 win over Iowa in the Big Ten Championship game on Dec. 4 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. DYLAN BUELL/GETTY

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF SEMIFINALS

According to Jim ...

Quirky, competitive, ingenious, disruptive: Harbaugh's different approach finally pays off

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

Working for Jim Harbaugh, sometimes it is hard to know when the conversation is over. Florida Atlantic coach Willie Taggart was an assistant under Harbaugh at Stanford for three seasons and recalls occasionally approaching his boss for a chat in the hallway or office. Without warning, Harbaugh's mind could dart elsewhere and he would drift away, often to return in 10, 15, maybe even 30 minutes later to pick up right where he left off — as if he never left. It took some getting used to, but Taggart was clear: Don't let Harbaugh's quirks distract you from his most important trait: "He's a winner." Harbaugh has been the most scrutinized coach in college football for seven seasons, defined by his failures despite a resume loaded with success. Now that he has delivered on the promise he brought to his alma mater — beating archrival Ohio State and leading the second-ranked Wolverines to the College Football Playoff and a date against No. 3 Georgia on Friday night — the idea that he was ever doubted seems almost silly. In 17 seasons as a head coach in college and the NFL, Harbaugh is 156-65 (70%). If you want to know what makes Harbaugh successful, the answers will come from those who played for him, worked with him and have been on the receiving end of his recruiting pitches. The characteristics that make Harbaugh seem a little weird — wear-

ing khakis every day so he doesn't have to think about his wardrobe, for example — well, his supporters will tell you they are ingenious. The glint in his eye that makes you wonder if he is really listening? That's a sign of a hyperactive mind, always working on the next thing. The slogans and sayings that seem corny? The sincere mantras of a guy who loves competing more than anything else. "Plainly put, what makes him tick is competition and being the best version of yourself, so when you try and distill down his principles, why he was successful as an athlete and why he's successful as a coach it's because of this relentless positivity and enthusiasm and competitiveness," said J.T. Rogan, who played for Harbaugh at San Diego and worked as his director of communications at Michigan. Jack Harbaugh, who coached John Elway at Stanford during a career that spanned four decades, instilled in his son a desire for daily improvement. That led Jim Harbaugh to Michigan, where he started at quarterback for Bo Schembechler in the mid-1980s, guaranteed a victory against Ohio State in 1986 (then delivered it) and went on to become a first-round draft pick by the Chicago Bears. During a 15-year NFL career, Harbaugh was more serviceable starter than star. He earned the nickname "Captain Comeback," but also built up a thick skin. "He's been criticized all his life, if you think about it," said Taggart, who played quarterback for Jack Harbaugh at Western Kentucky. "Playing quarterback, you're going to always get that criticism. I think he's probably immune to it all." As a coach, Harbaugh's resume is Hall of Fame worthy. At San Diego, a school that had little history of success before he arrived, he went 22-2 in two

seasons. UCLA staffer Tim Drevno spent 14 years working for Harbaugh as an assistant coach, starting at USD. "I've never been around a guy that motivates a team the night before the game better than him. He's really special at it," said Drevno, who recalled Harbaugh reciting a poem off the top of his head about going into battle before San Diego played a game at Dayton. "He really makes it fun." Harbaugh then flipped a Stanford program that had hit rock bottom in the Pac-12. After four years, he had the Cardinal in the Orange Bowl and finishing No. 4 in the country in 2010. He performed a similar turnaround in the NFL with the San Francisco 49ers, taking a struggling franchise to three straight NFC championship games. Longtime NFL running back Frank Gore said Harbaugh immediately changed the 49ers' culture, stripped away a losing mentality and made it them against the world. "If you don't love football, it's going to be hard to play for Harbaugh," Gore said. Taggart said you know where you stand when you work for Harbaugh. "Jim is not a B.S.'er. He's going to give it to you the way that it is," Taggart said. Chris and Mya Hinton found Harbaugh to be sincere, but could not help but notice his mercurial side when he recruited their son, Chris, who starts on the defensive line for the Wolverines. "We heard that going in that he was a little quirky," said Chris Hinton, who was a Pro Bowl offensive lineman with the Colts and Falcons during a long NFL career. Mya Hinton added: "I think his mind never stops working. And so sometimes you may be on a topic and it sparks something else in him and he seems like he's going off on a tangent, but by the time he's done you realize that it's all connected."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Houston rallies past Auburn, 17-13


Wire reports

Jake Herslow caught a 26-yard, go-ahead touchdown pass from Clayton Tune with 3:27 left to help lift No. 21 Houston to a 17-13 victory over Auburn on Tuesday in the Birmingham Bowl. The Cougars (12-2) marched 80 yards on eight plays to cap the third season in program history with at least 12 wins. They snapped a four-game bowl losing streak and won 12 of their final 13 games, the only loss coming to No. 4 Cincinnati in the American Athletic Conference championship game. The Tigers (6-7) went in the opposite direction in coach Bryan Harsin's first season. They ended a season with five straight losses for the first time in 71 years and dropped their third bowl game in a row. Game MVP Tune completed 26 of 40 passes for 283 yards and two touchdowns with an interception while also rushing for 43 yards. Nathaniel Dell caught 10 passes for 150 yards, while Alton McCaskill ran for 66 yards and caught a touchdown pass. **First Responder Bowl:** Haaziq Daniels threw for two touchdowns and ran for two others as Air Force beat Louisville 31-28 in the First Responder Bowl on Tuesday. Daniels completed 9 of 10 passes for a season-high 252 yards, leading a triple-option offense that came into the game averaging an FBS-best 340.8 rushing yards and the second-fewest passing yards at 82.5 per game. Brandon Lewis had touchdown catches of 64 and 61 yards for the Falcons (10-3), finishing with five receptions for a career-high 172 yards. That's the most receiving yardage for an Air Force player this season and the most ever in the Falcons' 28 bowl games. Matthew Dapone kicked a 26-yard field goal with 5:28 left to give the Falcons a two-score lead. Malik Cunningham threw a 34-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Harrell and ran for a 22-yard touchdown with 2:57 to play for Louisville (6-7). **Holiday Bowl scrapped:** The Holiday Bowl became the fifth postseason college football game to be canceled when UCLA was forced to pull out just hours before Tuesday's kickoff because of COVID-19 issues with the team. The Bruins were scheduled to face No. 18 North Carolina State at Petco Park, the home of the San Diego Padres. A surge in COVID-19 cases across the country has disrupted a second straight bowl season. The Hawaii, Military, Fenway and Arizona bowls have already been canceled due to virus outbreaks leaving teams without enough available players.




Houston wide receiver Nathaniel Dell (1) carries the ball against Auburn during the first half of the Birmingham Bowl on Tuesday. BUTCH DILL/AP


Today's bowl games



PINSTRIPE BOWL
Maryland (6-6) vs. Virginia Tech (6-6)
2:15 p.m., ESPN



CHEEZ-IT BOWL
Iowa State (7-5) vs. No. 19 Clemson (9-3)
5:45 p.m., ESPN



ALAMO BOWL: No. 14 Oklahoma (10-2) vs. No. 15 Oregon (10-3)
9:15 p.m., ESPN

KEY MATCHUP
Clemson quarterback D.J. Uiagalelei facing defensive end Will McDonald IV and the Iowa State defense. The sophomore QB has struggled at times as Trevor Lawrence's replacement, completing 187 of 342 passes (54.7%) for 2059 yards, nine touchdowns and nine interceptions. McDonald has a school-record 11 1/2 sacks this season.

— Associated Press

